Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107287842

County of Child's Residence: DALLAS

Gender: Male

Age: 2 Year(s) 9 Month(s)

Date of Death: 12/25/2024

On the date of the fatality, the child was in DFPS conservatorship. At that time, the child was residing in a Kinship Care Placement.

Child's Name: Brown,Paul

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/17/2024

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that the deceased child was shot in the head by an unknown person in the home of his maternal grandmother.

The Department's investigation determined that the child had been placed with the grandmother after he had been removed from his mother by the Department on 04/06/2024. Also in the grandmother's home were the child's two older siblings, age 10 and 13, who had been adopted by the grandmother in 2017. On the day of the incident, the grandmother left the children alone at home while she went to her sister's house to get food. She stated the 13-year-old was sleeping so she woke him up and told him to watch the child while she was gone. The 10-year-old and the deceased child were playing in the living room and watching television. She reported she kept the gun on a shelf in the closet and the older two children knew where it was and that the 10-year-old sibling had previously gotten in trouble for taking it out of the closet. She told the Department it had been missing for months but it was later found that the grandmother requested a relative hide the firearm from the police. It was later found by her adult son, who provided it to law enforcement. The 10-year-old was forensically interviewed and reported he was behind the couch watching YouTube while the child was in front of couch playing when he heard a boom and then found the child with blood on his face and on the floor, so he went to wake up his older brother. He also stated the older brother checked the gun, and that it had not been fired and was still in the closet. The 13-year-old was forensically interviewed and reported he went to sleep in the grandmother's room and was later awakened by his 10-year-old brother screaming for him to wake up and that the child was hurt. He began CPR and had his brother call an uncle. He stated he was not aware of any gun and when told what his younger brother said, stated he knew nothing about a gun and did not

check anything. The child was taken to the hospital and lifesaving treatment provided; however, the child succumbed to his injuries on 12/27/2024.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head, and the manner of death was undetermined. The medical examiner also observed extra bruising on the child but could not definitively state the bruising was from the gunshot wound or a previous injury.

Law enforcement completed an investigation, and the grandmother was arrested for tampering with evidence and making a firearm accessible to a child. Gun shot residue testing was still pending at the time the Department's investigation closed so it was still unknown who fired the gun.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the grandmother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which led to his death.

The Department was unable to determine if the grandmother committed physical abuse of the child.

Safety and Risk Assessments not required by policy as the only child in the mother's home died.

The investigation was closed.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided.

No Service Referrals and deceased child was an only child.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department conducted an investigation regarding the deceased child's two older sibling, whom the grandmother had adopted, to ensure their safety. They were removed from the home and placed into foster care.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:

The conservatorship of the deceased child began on 04/06/2024. At the time of his death, he was still in the Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the Department and placed with the maternal grandmother.

The conservatorship of the deceased child's older two siblings began on 03/12/2015. Parental rights were terminated, and the maternal grandmother adopted the children on 04/20/2017.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/22/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that the deceased child's mother gave birth to the deceased child and had tested positive for marijuana on 03/17/2022. The child's urine test came back negative. The mother stated she last used marijuana three weeks before giving birth.

The Department's investigation found that the mother had tested positive for marijuana on 03/14/2022 and although the child's urine was negative for drugs, his meconium was positive for marijuana. It was also determined that the mother was participating in services as part of an open conservatorship case involving an older sibling, however there were concerns for lack of behavioral changes. She was participating in counseling and parenting services and had completed drug education and domestic violence classes. The home was found to be suitable, the mother had all the necessary items for the child, and significant supports to assist her. It was determined the child could be discharged to the mother's home as there would be continued monitoring by the Department. The mother submitted to additional drug testing and was negative.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

The investigation was closed as the conservatorship case remained open.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/22/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No additional services offered as the mother was already involved in services provided as part of the on-going legal case involving one of the child's older siblings.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/05/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's mother brought the deceased child to the emergency room. The mother reported she suspected the deceased child's father sexually violated the child as he had been alone with him for a while and the child was holding his bottom in pain and wouldn't sit down. The mother also stated she saw the father take his hand out of the child's diaper and had videos of the child's large rectal opening. The mother has a history of cocaine use and appeared manic at the hospital. The report also stated the mother's other children were removed from her care.

The Department's investigation determined the child was taken to a nearby hospital, and tests revealed he had cocaine in his system. A sexual assault exam was also completed, and the results were normal, therefore law enforcement did not pursue charges. The child was observed at the hospital with no injuries and was playing with a ball and climbing on and under chairs. It was also determined that the child's caregivers had been both the mother and father. The mother was arrested at the hospital due to an active warrant. After her release, she agreed to drug testing but when at the testing site, refused to be tested. The father agreed to take a drug test but did not comply and stopped all communication with the Department.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm the father committed sexual abuse of the deceased child.

The case was opened to Conservatorship.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 04/05/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 04/30/2024: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother declined services offered but was court ordered to complete services as part of the legal Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child, who was placed with his maternal grandmother. This case was open at the time of the fatality.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Note: This report was prepared on 05/12/2026 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.