Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 114311143

County of Child's Residence: ZAPATA

Gender: Male

Age: 4 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 06/30/2024

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: Ledesma,Virlan

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/30/24

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after law enforcement was dispatched to the home after the deceased child was shot in head. Upon arrival, the deceased child's mother was running out of the door with the deceased child and her three other children. The condition of the home was also noted to be a concern as there were guns accessible to children, the home was cluttered, and there was dog feces on the floor.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child and his siblings, ages 1, 3, and 6 resided with the deceased child's mother and father in a recreational vehicle (RV). There were several bullets, shotgun shells and clothes strewn on the floor. There was a shotgun, AR style rifle and a pistol all within reach of the children. The magazines were loaded with rounds. Both parents were aware of the weapons and ammunition being accessible to the children. The mother reported the older children were in the bedroom playing while she was with the 1-year-old in the living area when she heard a shot. She ran to the bedroom and found the deceased child shot in the head.

Forensic interviews conducted on the 3 and 6-year-old siblings resulted in contradicting stories. The 3-year-old stated the 6-year-old shot the deceased child. The 6-year-old stated the deceased child shot himself. Based on the autopsy report, the stippling and direction of the bullet indicated the deceased child could not hold the weapon and pull the trigger himself. During the investigation, the Department was unable to enter the RV as it was seized for evidence. Photos were obtained from law enforcement which showed the home environment in deplorable conditions. There was an infestation of roaches which posed a health hazard. Dog feces on the floor, accessible to the children, were also reported and a health hazard. The family was facing an eviction due to the poor condition of the RV.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation. It was still pending at the time the Department's investigation was closed. The gun residue test was still pending but law enforcement indicated they were going to obtain warrants for both parents for making a weapon accessible to a child.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy. Based on the autopsy report, the stippling and direction of the bullet indicated the deceased child could not hold the weapon and pull the trigger himself. The Cause of Death was gunshot wound of the head, perforating type, and the Manner of Death was Undetermined.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child which resulted in his death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed physical neglect of the deceased child and his three siblings.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child's three siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
07/01/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family was referred to and accepted counseling and evaluation services and to participate with Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A safety plan was initiated in which the children will remain with deceased child's mother and father but under the direct supervision/monitor of the maternal grandmother to include the family relocating and residing with the maternal grandmother on a temporary basis. All caregivers agreed with the safety plan and agreed to follow the safety plan. The family will not be going back to the scene of the incident occurred and the children no longer have access to any weapons.

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:

Not applicable.

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.