



## Report Identification Number: SY-21-043

Prepared by: New York State Office of Children & Family Services

Issue Date: Feb 07, 2022

This report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:

- A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
- The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
- The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
- The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child’s family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child’s death; whether the child or the child’s family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child’s death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child’s death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child’s household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the Senate of the State of New York.

This report may **only** be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. **It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child’s siblings or other children in the household.**

OCFS’ review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS’ assessment and the performance of these agencies.



## Abbreviations

Relationships		
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
Contacts		
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
Dr.-Doctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPS-Child Protective Services		
Allegations		
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Other	
Miscellaneous		
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social Service	ACS-Administration for Children's Services	NYPD-New York City Police Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	FC-Foster Care
MH-Mental Health	ER-Emergency Room	COS-Court Ordered Services
OP-Order of Protection	RAP-Risk Assessment Profile	FASP-Family Assessment Plan
FAR-Family Assessment Response	Hx-History	Tx-Treatment
CAC-Child Advocacy Center	PIP-Program Improvement Plan	yo- year(s) old
CPR-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	ASTO-Allowing Sex Abuse to Occur	



## Case Information

**Report Type:** Child Deceased  
**Age:** 7 month(s)

**Jurisdiction:** Chenango  
**Gender:** Female

**Date of Death:** 09/01/2021  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 09/01/2021

## Presenting Information

Chenango County Department of Social Services (CCDSS) received the SCR report on 9/1/2021 which alleged on the same date the mother, (SM) put the 7-month-old child (SC) in a portable playpen with a bottle for a nap. The mother left the room and did not check on the child for approximately 85 minutes. The mother found the child face down, unresponsive, and not breathing. The mother called 911 and began to administer CPR. The child was pronounced deceased upon her arrival at the hospital. The father and paternal grandparents had unknown roles. There were no other children in the household.

## Executive Summary

This report concerns the death of a 7-month-old child which occurred while in the care of her mother. The child lived with her mother, father, and the paternal grandmother and the grandmother's paramour. There were no surviving siblings or other children in the home.

The day of the fatal incident, the mother placed the child down for a nap on her back, with a light blanket, a stuffed toy, and a cloth book present in the portable playpen. The mother returned to find the child on her stomach, limp, and bluish in color. A call was made to 911, CPR was initiated, and first responders arrived at the home shortly after. The child was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead.

The final autopsy results identified the cause of death as Sudden Death Associated with Rhinovirus Infection and the manner was identified as natural. There were no signs of abuse, maltreatment, or criminality found in the law enforcement or child protective investigations.

The allegations of DOA/Fatality and Inadequate Guardianship were unsubstantiated against the mother in congruence with the evidence gathered. The family accepted bereavement services which the family ended involvement with prior to the investigation being closed.

## Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

### Safety Assessment:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:**
  - **Safety assessment due at the time of determination?**

Yes

### Determination:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?**

Yes, sufficient information was gathered to determine all allegations.



• Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate? Yes

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? N/A

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? Yes

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation? Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

**Explain:**  
Casework activity was commensurate with case circumstances. There were no surviving siblings or other children in the home.

### Required Actions Related to the Fatality

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?  Yes  No

### Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

#### Incident Information

**Date of Death:** 09/01/2021

**Time of Death:** 05:45 PM (Approximate)

**Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death:** 05:25 PM

**County where fatality incident occurred:** Chenango

**Was 911 or local emergency number called?** Yes

**Time of Call:** Unknown

**Did EMS respond to the scene?** Yes

**At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs?** No

**Child's activity at time of incident:**

- |  |                                  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Working | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving / Vehicle occupant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing             | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating  | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |                                  |   |

**Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?** Yes

**How long before incident was the child last seen by caretaker?** 85 Minutes

**At time of incident was supervisor impaired?** Not impaired.

**At time of incident supervisor was:**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distracted | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asleep                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

**Total number of deaths at incident event:**

**Children ages 0-18:** 1

**Adults:** 0



## Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Female	7 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	No Role	Male	31 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Grandparent	No Role	Female	52 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	21 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Adult - PGM's Paramour	No Role	Male	48 Year(s)

## LDSS Response

CCDSS received the SCR report and notified the DA of their involvement in investigating the SC's death. A case conference was held with supervisors and a plan was made to notify the DA and ME of their involvement and to interview the family.

CCDSS interviewed the SM and BF in their home. The SM stated it was routine for her to put the SC down for a nap in the portable playpen at approximately 4:00 PM and wake her at approximately 5:30 PM. The SM stated she put the SC in the playpen on her back with a plush toy, cloth book, and light blanket covering her. The SM stated she returned to check on the SC at approximately 5:30 PM and the SC was face down, limp, and bluish in color. The SM called 911 and initiated CPR. The SM stated some formula came out of the mouth and nose of the SC when she was performing CPR. The BF was not home at the time of the fatal incident and was returning home from work. The BF confirmed the normal routine was for the SC to nap prior to his arrival home.

The SM and BF lived with the paternal grandmother (PGM) and her paramour (OA). The PGM and the OA confirmed the SC's regular nap schedule and expressed having no concerns for the care of the SC by the SM and the BF.

CCDSS spoke with LE regarding the death of the SC. LE informed CCDSS there would be no criminal charges against the SM unless the final autopsy report warranted further investigation.

CCDSS obtained the medical records for the SC. The records identified no medical concerns for the SC. The records documented the SM reported the SC spit up approximately five times a feeding and the family was advised to spread feedings out over more time. The hospital records showed the SC had no signs of abuse or trauma and the cause of death would be determined by autopsy.

CCDSS obtained the final autopsy results from the ME. The final autopsy results identified the cause of death to be Sudden Death Associated with Rhinovirus Infection and the manner was identified as natural. There were no signs of abuse or maltreatment present.

CCDSS unsubstantiated the allegations of DOA/Fatality and IG against the SM due to the evidence gathered during the investigation. The investigation determined the SC died of natural causes and not due to abuse or maltreatment by the SM. The family was offered services in relation to the death of the SC and engaged with bereavement counseling initially, ending the service prior to the investigation being closed.

## Official Manner and Cause of Death

**Official Manner:** Natural

**Primary Cause of Death:** From a medical cause

**Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death:** Medical Examiner



### Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

Was the fatality investigation conducted by a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)? Yes

Was the fatality referred to an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team? No

Comments: Chenango County does not have an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team.

### SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
058744 - Deceased Child, Female, 7 Month(s)	058745 - Mother, Female, 21 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
058744 - Deceased Child, Female, 7 Month(s)	058745 - Mother, Female, 21 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated

### CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there discussion with all parties (youth, other household members, and staff) who were present that day (if nonverbal, observation and comments in case notes)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Legal Activity Related to the Fatality



Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity.

### Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funeral arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homemaking Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol/Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intensive case management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or others as safety resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? Unable to Determine

**Explain:**

The family was provided with and accepted referrals for bereavement services. The parents engaged in the services until discontinuing the services prior to case closure.

### History Prior to the Fatality

#### Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?

No

Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?

No



Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death? No  
 Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death? No

### Infants Under One Year Old

**During pregnancy, mother:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Had medical complications / infections                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Had heavy alcohol use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Smoked tobacco        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experienced domestic violence  | <input type="checkbox"/> Used illicit drugs    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed |  |

**Infant was born:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug exposed  | <input type="checkbox"/> With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> With neither of the issues listed noted in case record |   |

### CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There is no CPS investigative history in NYS within three years prior to the fatality.

### CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality

There was no CPS investigative history more than three years prior to the fatality.

### Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There was no known CPS history outside of NYS.

### Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity

### Recommended Action(s)

Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes?  Yes  No

Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review?  Yes  No