

**Report Identification Number: AL-14-038**

**Prepared by: Albany Regional Office**

**Issue Date: 6/19/2015**

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.

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## Abbreviations

<b>Relationships</b>		
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
<b>Contacts</b>		
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
CPR-Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation		
<b>Allegations</b>		
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	MN-Medical Neglect	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-Others	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
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		

## Case Information

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**Report Type:** Child Deceased  
**Age:** 2 month(s)

**Jurisdiction:** Albany  
**Gender:** Male

**Date of Death:** 11/10/2014  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 11/10/2014

## Presenting Information

On 11/10/14, the mother dropped off the eight- week-old subject child at the babysitter's home at approximately 7:30am. Later in the morning the child was placed down for a nap. Between 11:00-11:30am the alleged subject/ babysitter checked on the child and discovered the child unresponsive. The babysitter called 911. EMS made attempts to resuscitate, however they were unsuccessful and the child was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

## Executive Summary

On November 10, 2014, Albany County DCYF received an SCR report alleging DOA/ Fatality and Inadequate Guardianship against the babysitter, alleged subject, at the time of the fatality. In addition the biological mother and six-year-old half sibling were listed on the report with an unknown role.

During the course of the investigation, ACDCYF conducted interviews with the alleged subject, biological parents, children present in the residence at the time of the fatality and their parents as well as surviving siblings. In addition ACDCYF spoke with and gathered appropriate documentation from collaterals including Albany Medical Center, Emergency Medical Services, pediatrician and Albany Police Department.

The investigation revealed on 11/10/14 at approximately 7:30am the biological mother dropped off the nine-week-old child at the subjects residence. The babysitter reported that day was the third time she had cared for the subject child. The alleged subject stated she was also caring for her two grandchildren ages nine and two-years-old. The alleged subject reported that the mother informed her that the child had just been fed prior to leaving the home and typically ate every five hours. At approximately 9:40am the alleged subject reported she put the nine-week-old down on his stomach, per mothers instructions for a nap in a play pen located in the living room adjacent to the kitchen where she was located with her grandson. There was no verification in the record regarding the mother's instructions to the babysitter. She said she checked on the child periodically. At 11:40am the alleged subject stated she went and checked on the child and discovered him unresponsive and began CPR and contacted 911.

EMS arrived to the residence at 11:45 am. According to records the subject child was discovered unresponsive. All efforts to resuscitate were unsuccessful. The child was pronounced dead at 12:08pm at Albany Medical Center. There was no foul play or safety concerns observed at the scene of the fatality.

On 3/11/15 the final autopsy results were received. The findings indicated that the child had no signs of trauma and appeared to be healthy. The cause of death was determined to be Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

On 1/21/15 the allegations against the alleged subject for DOA/ Fatality and Inadequate Guardianship were unsubstantiated based on no credible evidence found to support that the alleged subject actions contributed to the death of the child. The case was closed and no services were recommended.

## Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

## Safety Assessment:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:
  - Approved Initial Safety Assessment? Yes
  - Safety assessment due at the time of determination? Yes
- Was the safety decision on the approved Initial Safety Assessment appropriate? No

## 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? Yes

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.

## 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: 11/10/2014

Time of Death: 12:08 PM

County where fatality incident occurred: ALBANY

Was 911 or local emergency number called? Yes

Time of Call: 11:36 AM

Did EMS to 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

Is the caretaker listed in the Household Composition? Yes - Caregiver

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

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

**Children ages 0-18: 1**

## Household Composition at time of Fatality

Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	Alleged Victim	Male	2 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Father	No Role	Male	32 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	No Role	Female	33 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	6 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Other	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	59 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Other Child	No Role	Female	9 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Other Child	No Role	Male	2 Year(s)
Other Household 2	Sibling	No Role	Female	13 Year(s)

## LDSS Response

On 11/10/14 an SCR report was received by Albany County DCYF stating that this morning at 7:30am the biological mother dropped off her two-month-old child at the babysitters, alleged subject. At 9:30am the alleged subject put the child down for a nap. At approximately 11:30am the child was found unresponsive and not breathing. The subject child has no known medical issues.

Following the receipt of the SCR report ACDCYF conducted a home-visit to the alleged subject's residence and reviewed the events that led to the fatality as well as her actions in response. In addition the caseworker gathered pertinent information related to the household composition and individuals that were present at the time of the fatality. A visual safety assessment of the location where the subject child was sleeping was completed. No safety risks were identified.

ADCYF proceeded to make a home-visit to the subject child's residence and conducted interviews with the biological parents. The six year-old- surviving half sibling also resides in the residence, but was at school at the time of the initial contact with the parents. A safety assessment of the home was completed and there were no concerns found.

A safety plan was developed between LDSS, the alleged subject and biological parents based on the fact of minimal information at that time regarding an explanation for the fatality. The babysitter agreed not to care for any children until further investigation and the parents agreed to be supervised when in the care of the surviving sibling. The safety plan related to the biological parents was re- assessed and discontinued on 11/11/14 after ACDCYF spoke with APD and were informed that the preliminary autopsy findings indicated no signs of trauma. During the review of safety assessments it was identified that category three was selected by ACDCYF which stated one or more safety factors was present that placed the children at immediate or impending danger of serious harm which included a safety plan being necessary, however there was no documented findings to support a category three being selected.

ACDCYF conducted face to face interviews with the subject child's six-year-old and thirteen-year-old half siblings. The

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parents and children who were being cared for by the alleged subject at the time of the fatality were also interviewed.

During the course of the investigation ACDCYF spoke with and gathered documentation from multiple collaterals including EMS, APD, Albany Medical Center and the subject child's pediatrician. In addition, the caseworker conducted several home-visits with the biological parents, babysitter and the family of the children who were present at the time of the fatality and offered grief counseling as needed. The location of the fatality was observed by ACDCYF caseworkers and pictures were taken.

The autopsy concluded the cause of death as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

## 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

**Comments:** On 12/4/14 a MDT meeting occurred at ACDCYF.

**Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team?** Yes

## SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
016941 - Deceased Child, Male, 2 Mons	016945 - Other - babysitter, Female, 59 Year(s)	DOA / Fatality	Unsubstantiated
016941 - Deceased Child, Male, 2 Mons	016945 - Other - babysitter, Female, 59 Year(s)	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated

## CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
<b>All children observed?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>When appropriate, children were interviewed?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Contact with source?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate safety assessment of impending or immediate danger to surviving siblings/other children in the household named in the report:				
Within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 7 days?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 30 days?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

When safety factors were present that placed the surviving siblings/other children in the household in impending or immediate danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did the protective factors in this case require the LDSS to file a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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petition in Family Court at any time during or after the investigation?				
Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality Investigation

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the safety factors in the case show the need for the surviving siblings/other children in the household be removed and placed in foster care at any time during this fatality investigation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were there surviving siblings/other children in the household removed as a result of this fatality report/investigation?	<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	Needed but 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>



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<b>Child Care</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Intensive case management</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family or others as safety resources</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other</b>	<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 siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality? Yes**

**Explain:**  
The family was offered grief counseling, however they were seeking services independently of LDSS.

**Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? N/A**

**Explain:**  
There were no services identified.

## History Prior to the Fatality

### Child Information

- Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?** No
- Was there an open CPS case with this child at the time of death?** 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:**

- Had medical complications / infections
- Misused over-the-counter or prescription drugs
- Experienced domestic violence
- Was not noted in the case record to have any of the issues listed
- Had heavy alcohol use
- Smoked tobacco
- Used illicit drugs

**Infant was born:**

- Drug exposed
- With neither of the issues listed noted in case record
- With fetal alcohol effects or syndrome

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

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

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

No Child Protective History

## Known CPS History Outside of NYS

N/A

## Services Open at the Time of the Fatality

### Required Action(s)

**Are there Required Actions related to compliance issues for provisions of CPS or Preventive services ?**

Yes  No

## Preventive Services History

There is no record of Preventive Services History provided to the deceased child, the deceased child's siblings, and/or the other children residing in the deceased child's household at the time of the fatality.

### Required Action(s)

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issues for provision of Foster Care Services?**

Yes  No

## Foster Care Placement History

There is no record of foster care placement history provided to the deceased child, the deceased child's siblings, and/or the other children residing in the deceased child's household at the time of the fatality.

## 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