

Report Identification Number: NY-21-077

Prepared by: New York City Regional Office

Issue Date: Jan 19, 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 <u>only</u> 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						
DrDoctor	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	ACS-Administration for Children's	NYPD-New York City Police						
Service	Services	Department						
PPRS-Purchased Preventive	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy	FC-Foster Care						
Rehabilitative Services	Families							
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 Jurisdiction: Queens Date of Death: 07/24/2021

Age: 2 month(s) Gender: Female Initial Date OCFS Notified: 07/26/2021

Presenting Information

The 7/26/21 SCR report alleged the SM abused cocaine and marijuana during her pregnancy and as a result, the SC was born at 25 weeks gestation. The SC remained in the neonatal intensive care unit throughout her life and continued to have complications due to her premature birth. The SC died on 7/24/21 from cardio respiratory arrest due to these complications. The BF had an unknown role.

Executive Summary

This fatality report concerns the death of a 2-month-old female subject child that's occurred on 7/24/21. No autopsy was performed; however, according to ACS, medical staff gave the cause of death as cardiorespiratory arrest due to extreme prematurity the manner of death according to the death certificate received was listed as natural.

ACS' investigation revealed the subject child was born premature after 25 weeks gestation and was positive for cocaine at birth. The subject child remained in the hospital from the time of her birth until her death. There were no surviving siblings in the home.

ACS contacted the hospital and learned of the child's treatment plan which included use of a ventilator. ACS also learned that during the period of hospitalization, the subject child had stopped taking her formula and on 7/19/21 the subject child became "fussy" and was given Pedialyte until 7/24/21 when she died.

During the investigation, ACS made several attempts to contact the parents; however, they did not cooperate. ACS also contacted law enforcement and learned that there would not be a criminal investigation as there was no suspicion of any criminal activities involved in the subject child's death.

Prior to the child's death, ACS had filed an Article 10 Petition of Neglect in Family Court and had obtained a remand of the child. The mother was the respondent.

On 8/12/21, Family Court was provided with the subject child's death certificate as per their request. The Article 10 Petition of Neglect was withdrawn, and the case was closed. The documentation reflected the ACS provided burial assistance for the subject child.

On 8/26/21, ACS substantiated the allegations of DOA/Fatality, IG, and PD/AM of the subject child by the mother. ACS documented that the subject child was born premature at 25 weeks and tested positive for cocaine. The subject child eventually suffered a cardiopulmonary arrest on 7/24/21. ACS also documented the mother did not receive prenatal care during her pregnancy with the subject child and continued to use cocaine during her pregnancy.

NYCRO does not agree with the ACS decision to substantiate the allegations of the report. The mother's drug use occurred prior to the birth of the child and because there was no "child" at the time of the alleged harm, there was no abuse or neglect.

Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

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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?

Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory Yes

or regulatory requirements?

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation?

Yes, the case record has detail of the

consultation.

Explain:

The level of casework activity, which includes contact with the family and others from the receipt of the report through case conclusion, was commensurate with the case circumstances.

Required Actions Related to the Fatality

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

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Issue:	Appropriateness of allegation determination
Summary:	ACS decision to substantiate the allegations of the report was not appropriate. The mother's drug use occurred prior to the birth of the child and because there was no "child" at the time of the alleged harm, there was no abuse or neglect.
Legal Reference:	FCA 1012 (e) & (f);18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(3)(iv)
Action:	ACS must submit a PIP within 45 days that identifies the action the agency has taken or will take to address the citations identified in the fatality report. ACS must meet with the staff involved with this fatality investigation and inform NYCRO of the date of the meeting, who attended and what was discussed.

Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

Incident Information

Date of fatal incident, if different than date of death: Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death: 04/27/2021 Unknown



County where fatality incident occ	urred:	Queens
Was 911 or local emergency numb	er called?	No
Did EMS respond to the scene?		No
At time of incident leading to deat	h, had child used alcohol or drugs?	No
Child's activity at time of incident	:	
☐ Sleeping	Working	Driving / Vehicle occupant
☐ Playing	☐ Eating	Unknown
Other: child was in the hospital		
Did child have supervision at time At time of incident was supervisor At time of incident supervisor was	impaired? Not impaired.	
Distracted	Absent	
Asleep	Other: working	
Total number of deaths at inciden	t 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	2 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	Alleged Perpetrator	Female	34 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Father	No Role	Male	62 Year(s)

LDSS Response

On 7/26/21, the hospital social worker (SW) reported the SC had not left the hospital since birth and the SM had not visited the SC since the SM's discharge. The cause of death was cardiorespiratory arrest due to extreme prematurity. The SC was born at 25 weeks. A toxicology was performed, and it was positive for cannabis and cocaine.

On 7/26/21, ACS visited two addresses in attempts to locate the SM. The attempts were not successful. ACS staff also visited the MGM's home and learned the SM did not reside there. The MGM stated the SM lived "wherever," and she had not seen the SM since 2020. The MGM did not have contact information for the SM. When ACS informed the MGM the SC passed away, the MGM said she did not know the SM was pregnant.

On 7/26/21, ACS visited the hospital and spoke with the Nurse Practitioner (NP) by phone who said the SC's cause of death was cardiopulmonary arrest. The NP explained the SC was originally in the hospital for a medical condition related to her prematurity. The treatment plan included the use of a ventilator, antibiotics, and multiple blood transfusions. The NP said the SC stopped tolerating formula on 6/25/21 and the SC never "ate" since then after. The SC resumed feeding of Pedialyte from 7/19/21until 7/24/21, but was "fussy". The NP said the SM never visited, but she called. The SM was informed of the SC's death and she simply said "okay."

On 7/29/21 and 8/3/21, ACS left a message for the SM and the alleged BF to contact the ACS; none of them responded to the calls.

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On 8/9/21, ACS visited the funeral home and provided burial clothing for the SC.

On 8/26/21, ACS substantiated the allegations of DOA/Fatality, IG, and PD/AM of the subject child by the mother. ACS documented that the subject child was born premature at 25 weeks and tested positive for cocaine. The subject child eventually suffered a cardiopulmonary arrest on 7/24/21 ACS also documented the mother did not receive prenatal care during her pregnancy with the subject child and continued to use cocaine during her pregnancy.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Pending

Primary Cause of Death: Pending

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Unknown

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: There is no OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team in NYC.

SCR Fatality Report Summary

Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome
059086 - Deceased Child, Female, 2	059087 - Mother, Female, 34	DOA / Fatality	Substantiated
Mons	Year(s)		
059086 - Deceased Child, Female, 2	059087 - Mother, Female, 34	Inadequate Guardianship	Substantiated
Mons	Year(s)		
059086 - Deceased Child, Female, 2	059087 - Mother, Female, 34	Parents Drug / Alcohol	Substantiated
Mons	Year(s)	Misuse	

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?			\boxtimes	
When appropriate, children were interviewed?			\boxtimes	
Alleged subject(s) interviewed face-to-face?		\boxtimes		
All 'other persons named' interviewed face-to-face?			\boxtimes	
Contact with source?	\boxtimes			
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	\boxtimes			
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	\boxtimes			
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)?	\boxtimes			

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Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?				
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?				
Additional information:				

The SC was born in a medical facility and did not leave the hospital. Subsequently, the SC died in the hospital. On 8/24/21, the supervisor documented that the SM failed to cooperate with ACS regarding the SC.

Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?		\boxtimes		

Legal Activity Related to the Fatality

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

Have any Orders of Protection been issued? No

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							
Economic support							
Funeral arrangements							
Housing assistance							
Mental health services							
Foster care							
Health care						\boxtimes	
Legal services						\boxtimes	
Family planning						\boxtimes	
Homemaking Services						\boxtimes	
Parenting Skills						\boxtimes	
Domestic Violence Services						\boxtimes	
Early Intervention						\boxtimes	
Alcohol/Substance abuse						\boxtimes	

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Child Care						\boxtimes	
Intensive case management					$\overline{\Box}$		
Family or others as safety resources					$\overline{}$		
Other							
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? N/A Explain: There were no SSs or other CHN in the SM's care. Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? Yes Explain: The documentation reflected ACS provided burial assistance for the SC.							
			he Fatality	7			
Was the child ever placed outside of the l Were there any siblings ever placed outsi	Child Information Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment? Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death? Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death? Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death? Yes Yes						
	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 ☐ Used illicit drugs ☐ Used illicit drugs							
Infant was born: ☑ Drug exposed ☐ With neither of the issues listed noted in	n case recor	d		With feta	al alcohol effe	ects or sy	ndrome

CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
04/27/2021	Deceased Child, Female, 1 Days	Mother, Female, 34 Years	Parents Drug / Alcohol Misuse	Substantiated	No

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Report Summary:
The 4/27/21 SCR report alleged that the SM gave birth to a baby girl. The SM's toxicology was positive for both THO
and cocaine at the time of delivery. The SC's toxicology results were pending.

Report Determination: Unfounded Date of Determination: 05/21/2021

Basis for Determination:

The SM admitted to using marijuana and cocaine during the pregnancy. The SC was tested positive for cocaine and remained in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the hospital. A neglect petition was filed on 5/4/21 and a remand was granted by the Family Court.

OCFS Review Results:

ACS initiated the investigation of the report in a timely manner and made the appropriate collateral contacts. ACS' documentation reflected attempts to locate the parents; however, the attempts were unsuccessful. ACS filed an Article Ten Petition of Neglect in Family Court (QFC) and a remand was granted. There was evidence of supervisory involvement in the investigation.

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

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

The SM was known as a subject in one report dated 4/21/05. The allegations of the report was IG and PD/AM of the then 2-day old SS by the SM. On 6/28/05, ACS IND the report.

Known CPS History Outside of NYS

The CONNECTIONS system reflected that ACS received a report from out of state regarding the SM's previous involvement with their CPS system. The SM gave birth to a male infant on 7/21/02. The child who had a positive toxicology was born with medical issues and subsequently died on 10/27/02 due to multi system organ failure. The case was filed in court against the SM and father and a remand order was issued. The SM failed to cooperate with services being provided.

Services Open at the Time of the Fatality

Was the deceased child(ren) involved in an open Child Protective Services case at the time of the fatality? Yes Date the Child Protective Services case was opened: 05/03/2021

Evaluative Review of Services that were Open at the Time of the Fatality

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the service provider(s) comply with the timeliness and content requirements for progress notes?				
Did the services provided meet the service needs as outlined in the case record?				
Did all service providers comply with mandated reporter requirements?	\boxtimes			
Was there information in the case record that indicated the existence of behaviors or conditions that placed the children in the case in danger or increased their risk of harm?				
If yes, was the response appropriate to the circumstances?	\boxtimes			

Casework Contacts



	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the service provider comply with case work contacts, including face- to-face contact as required by regulations pertaining to the program choice?	\boxtimes			
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?				
Services Provided				
Services Provided				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
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?				
Were services provided to parents as necessary to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being?				
	ID)			
Family Assessment and Service Plan (FAS	6P)			
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the most recent FASP approved on time?				
Was there a current Risk Assessment Profile/Risk Assessment in the most recent FASP?				
Was the FASP consistent with the case circumstances?				
Closing				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the decision to close the Services case appropriate?	\boxtimes			
Foster Care at the Time of the Fata	ality			
The deceased child(ren) were in foster care at the time of the fatality? Yes Date deceased child(ren) was placed in care:	/2021			
Date of placement with most recent caregiver? 05/04 How did the child(ren) enter placement? Court				
tion and the chiu(ren) enter pracement:	cement? Court Order			

Review of Foster Care When Child was in Foster Care at the time of the Fatality



	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Does the case record document that sufficient steps were taken to safeguard this child's safety while in this placement?	\boxtimes			
Did the placement comply with the appropriateness of placement standards?				
Was the most recent placement stable?				
Did the agency comply with sibling placement standards?			\boxtimes	
Was the child AWOL at the time of death?		\square		
Visitation				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Was the visitation plan appropriate for the child?			\boxtimes	
Was visitation facilitated in accordance with the regulations?			\boxtimes	
Was there supervision of visits as required?			\boxtimes	
Casework Contacts				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were face-to-face contacts with the child in the child's placement location made with the required frequency?			\boxtimes	
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource made with required frequency?				
Were face-to-face contacts with the parent/relative/discharge resource in the parent/relative/discharge resource's home made with required frequency?				
Were all of the casework contact requirements for contacts with the caretakers made, including requirements for contact at the child's placement location?				
Provider Oversight/Training				
	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Did the agency provide the foster parents with required information regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues?			\boxtimes	
Did the provider comply with discipline standards?				
Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need?			\boxtimes	

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Explain:

Child Fatality Report

by OCFS that pr	parent provided a training program appore pared the foster parent with appropriate kills to meet the needs of the child?					
Was the certifica	tion/approval for the placement current?				\boxtimes	
Was a Criminal Date:	History check conducted?					\boxtimes
Was a check con Date:	pleted through the State Central Register	·?				\boxtimes
Was a check completed through the Staff Exclusion List? Date:						
Additional infor NA	mation, if necessary:					
	Foster Care Place	ement History				
The SM had a male child who was placed into foster care. On 5/2/07, the child, now 16 years old, was freed for adoption. Ouring the 4/27/21 investigation, ACS opened a service case on 5/3/21. The Initial FASP reflected that the SM gave birth to the SC at the hospital on 4/27/21. The SM tested positive for marijuana and cocaine. The SC tested positive for cocaine. The SC was born premature at 25 weeks. The service plan included case management services for the SM. An Article 10 petition of Neglect was filed and a remand of the SC was issued. The FASP of 7/13/21 reflected that ACS had attempted numerous times to establish contact wit the SM to refer her to services and send her for random drug and alcohol tests. On 1/24/21, the SC died. Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation? Criminal Court Order of Protection						
Family Court Pe	etition Type: FCA Article 10 - CPS					
Date Filed:	Fact Finding Description:	Dispo	osition Description:			
05/04/2021	There was not a fact finding	There	was not a disposition			
Respondent:	059087 Mother Female 34 Year(s)					
Comments:	On 5/4/21, ACS filed an Article Ten Neglect petition in QFC naming the SM as the respondent. The QFC granted a remand of the SC. On 8/12/21, the QFC was provided with the SC's death certificate as per the court request. The neglect petition was withdrawn, and the case was over.					
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
Have anv Order	s of Protection been issued? Yes					
From: 05/04/202		To: 02/01/2022				
<u> </u>						

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According to ACS, there was an OP issued on neglect case of 5/4/21. The OP was issued on 5/4/21 with an expiration



date of 2/1/22. The stipulation was for the SM to stay away except for agency supervised visits. The was no longer valid as the neglect petition was dismissed on 8/12/21.

Recommended Action(s)			