

Report Identification Number: SV-21-010

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

Issue Date: Aug 24, 2021

| 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
Age: 17 year(s)

Jurisdiction: Nassau
Gender: Male

Date of Death: 02/13/2021,estimated
Initial Date OCFS Notified: 03/02/2021

Presenting Information

The 17-year-old child (SC) had been AWOL from placement since 6/1/2019. The child was a destitute child in the care and custody of Nassau County Department of Social Services. A body was found in Suffolk County in January 2021 and confirmed to be the child through DNA testing on 2/13/2021. Nassau County Department of Social Services (NCDSS) was informed of the positive identification of the child and notified OCFS through an Agency Reporting Form on 3/2/2021.

Executive Summary

This report concerns the death of the 17-year-old subject child which occurred while AWOL from residential placement. The child was a destitute child in the care and custody of NCDSS.

The child went AWOL from placement on 6/1/2019 and had not had any contact with NCDSS or law enforcement since that date. In January 2021, skeletal remains were found in Suffolk County, NY and confirmed through DNA testing to be the subject child's. NCDSS was informed by law enforcement that the remains were confirmed to be the child on 2/13/2021.

NCDSS obtained no further information on the death of the child from law enforcement or the medical examiner. NCDSS made phone contact with the paternal aunt to connect her to the appropriate authorities to arrange the child's funeral services.

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?

N/A

Determination:

- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations N/A as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate N/A appropriate?

Explain:

NCDSS was informed by LE that the remains found were that of the SC. NCDSS then closed their case. No further details of the SC's death were obtained by NCDSS.

Was the decision to close the case appropriate?

Yes



Adults: 0

Child Fatality Report

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

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation?

Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

Explain:

There were no surviving siblings or adult family members to offer services to. No details on the circumstances of the SC's death were obtained by NCDSS prior to closing the foster care stage. The case record has documentation of supervisory consultation in the long term case; however, not since 10/21/2020.

| upervisory consultation in the long term case; however, not since 10/21/2020. | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | Required Action | s Related to the Fatality | | | |
| Are there Required Actions | related to the compliance | issue(s)? □Yes ⊠No | | | |
| F | atality-Related Informa | tion and Investigative Ac | ctivities | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Incide | nt Information | | | |
| Date of Death: 02/13/2021 D | Pate Estimated | Time of Death: Unknown | n | | |
| Time of fatal incident, if dif | ferent than time of death: | | Unknown | | |
| County where fatality incide Was 911 or local emergency | number called? | | Suffolk Unknown | | |
| Did EMS respond to the sce | | hl | Unknown | | |
| At time of incident leading t Child's activity at time of in | · · | conot or arugs: | Unknown | | |
| Sleeping Playing Other | ☐ Working ☐ Eating | | riving / Vehicle occupant nknown | | |
| Did child have supervision a At time of incident was supe At time of incident supervis Distracted Asleep | ervisor impaired? Unknown or was: | | | | |
| Total number of deaths at in | _ | | | | |

Household Composition at time of Fatality

| Household | Relationship | Role | Gender | Age |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------|------------|
| Deceased Child's Household | Deceased Child | No Role | Male | 17 Year(s) |
| Other Household 1 | Institutional Staff | No Role | Female | 40 Year(s) |

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LDSS Response

On 2/13/2021, NCDSS was informed by law enforcement that skeletal remains found in January 2021 were confirmed to be the SC. The SC was a destitute child in the care and custody of NCDSS and had been placed in a residential facility. The SC went AWOL from the placement on 6/1/2019 and had been missing since.

The SC had a history of going AWOL from placement, being aggressive towards staff and peers, and had possible gang affiliations. The SC had been found in California during a previous AWOL from placement and informed the paternal aunt (PA) that someone had wanted to kill him. Arrangements were made for the SC to return to NY and his residential placement. The SC then went AWOL again a few days later, not to be seen again.

During the SC's AWOL from placement, NCDSS maintained contact with the PA asking for updates on any communication with the SC. The PA denied any contact with the SC. NCDSS attended court appearances to ensure the SC's arrest warrant remained current in case he was located by the police. The SC's body was able to be confirmed through DNA testing of his son, born to his former girlfriend. Following the confirmation of the identity of the remains, NCDSS closed their foster care case. No information on how the SC died, cause of death, or additional information from LE was obtained by NCDSS prior to closing their case.

Official Manner and Cause of Death

Official Manner: Unknown

Primary Cause of Death: Unknown

Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death: Unknown

Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

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

Comments: Nassau County has an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team.

CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

| | Yes | No | N/A | Unable to Determine |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| All children observed? | | | | |
| When appropriate, children were interviewed? | | | \boxtimes | |
| Contact with source? | | | \boxtimes | |
| All appropriate Collaterals contacted? | | \boxtimes | | |
| Medical Examiner / Coroner | | \boxtimes | | |
| Was a death-scene investigation performed? | | | \boxtimes | |
| Coordination of investigation with law enforcement? | \boxtimes | | | |
| Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation? | | | | |



Additional information, if necessary:

Child Fatality Report

| | Fatality Sa | fety Assessn | nent Activitie | S | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Yes | No | N/A | Unable to Determine |
| Were there any surviving siblings or ot | her childrer | in the ho | usehold? | | | | |
| Was there legal activity as a result of th | | | to the Fatalit? There was | - | ctivity. | | |
| Services | Provided to t | he Family in | Response to | the Fatalit | y | | |
| Services | Provided After Death | Offered, but Refused | Offered, Unknown if Used | Not Offered | Needed but Unavailabl | N/A | CDR Lead to Referral |
| Bereavement counseling | | | | | | | |
| Economic support | | | | | | | |
| Funeral arrangements | | | | | | | |
| Housing assistance | | | | | | | |
| Mental health services | | | | | | | |
| Foster care | | | | | | | |
| Health care | | | | | | | |
| Legal services | | | | | | \boxtimes | |
| Family planning | | | | | | | |
| Homemaking Services | | | | | | | |
| Parenting Skills | | | | | | \boxtimes | |
| Domestic Violence Services | | | | | | | |
| Early Intervention | | | | | | | |
| Alcohol/Substance abuse | | | | | | | |
| Child Care | | | | | | | |
| Intensive case management | | | | | | | |
| Family or others as safety resources | | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | \boxtimes | |

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There were no surviving family members to which NCDSS was required to offer services.



History Prior to the Fatality

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?

No

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) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 10/03/2018 | Deceased Child, Male, 15 Years | Aunt/Uncle, Female, 35 Years | Excessive Corporal Punishment | Unsubstantiated | No |
| | Deceased Child, Male, 15 Years | Aunt/Lincle Female 35 | | Unsubstantiated | |
| | Deceased Child, Male, 15 Years | Aunt/Uncle, Female, 35 Years | Lacerations / Bruises / Welts | Unsubstantiated | |

Report Summary:

The SCR report alleged a physical incident had occurred between the PA and SC in which the SC was scratched by the PA. The incident occurred in April 2018 and had been previously reported to the SCR.

Report Determination: Unfounded **Date of Determination:** 11/01/2018

Basis for Determination:

NCDSS spoke with the SC and attempted to interview the PA by phone. The PA had moved out of state and did not return the attempts made by NCDSS to contact her. The allegations had previously been investigated and were substantiated at the time the incident occurred. The SC was placed in foster care during that investigation due to the PA moving out of state without a plan for the SC's care.

OCFS Review Results:

NCDSS made multiple unsuccessful attempts to reach the PA to discuss the allegations. The health and safety of the SC was confirmed through his placement in foster care. NCDSS closed the investigation and the SC remained in foster care.

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

| Date of SCR Report | Alleged Victim(s) | Alleged Perpetrator(s) | Allegation(s) | Allegation Outcome | Compliance Issue(s) |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 04/04/2018 | Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | Mother, Female, 35 Years | Inadequate Guardianship | Substantiated | No |
| | Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | | Childs Drug / Alcohol Use | Substantiated | |
| | Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | Aunt/Lincle Hemale 35 Vears | Inadequate Guardianship | Substantiated | |



| Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | Aunt/Uncle, Female, 35 Years | Lack of Supervision | Substantiated |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 ' ' | • | Childs Drug / Alcohol Use | Unsubstantiated |
| 1 ' ' | · · | Inadequate Guardianship | Unsubstantiated |

Report Summary:

NCDSS received an SCR report subsequent to an open investigation which alleged that a physical incident occurred between the PA and the SC in which the SC was scratched inadvertently by the PA. The report also alleged that the PA had kicked the SC out of her home and he was using marijuana.

Report Determination: Indicated Date of Determination: 05/01/2018

Basis for Determination:

NCDSS interviewed familial and collateral contacts. It was learned that the PA and SC engaged in a mutually physical altercation and the SC was scratched in the incident. The PA had moved out of state and the SC refused to move with her. The PA made an informal plan to have the SC stay with a friend. The SC did not follow the rules of the house, and he used drugs. The SC was removed from the care of the PA and placed in foster care.

OCFS Review Results:

NCDSS met regulatory requirements in conducting their investigation into the allegations. The SC was placed in foster care due to the PA failing to plan for his care. The SC was declared a destitute child and was placed in the care and custody of NCDSS on 4/23/18.

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

| Date of SCR Report | Alleged Victim(s) | Alleged Perpetrator(s) | Allegation(s) | Allegation Outcome | Compliance Issue(s) |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 03/02/2018 | Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | | Inadequate Guardianship | Substantiated | No |
| | Deceased Child, Male, 14 Years | IMINITHER HEMBIE 33 YEARS | Inadequate Guardianship | Substantiated | |

Report Summary:

NCDSS received an SCR report which alleged the PA had kicked the SC out of her home.

Report Determination: Indicated **Date of Determination:** 05/01/2018

Basis for Determination:

NCDSS interviewed familial and collateral contacts. It was learned that the PA and SC engaged in a mutually physical altercation and the SC was scratched in the incident. The PA had moved out of state and the SC refused to move with her. The PA made an informal plan to have the SC stay with a friend where the SC would not follow the rules of the house and was using drugs. The SC was removed from the care of the PA and placed in foster care.

OCFS Review Results:

NCDSS met regulatory requirements in conducting their investigation in to the allegations. The SC was placed in foster care due to the PA failing to plan for his care. The SC was declared a destitute child and was placed in the care and custody of NCDSS on 4/23/18.

| Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issued | (s)? | l lYes | -1×1 Nc | ດ |
|---|------|--------|-----------------|---|
|---|------|--------|-----------------|---|

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

There was one substantiated investigation more than three years prior to the fatality. The historical case was in relation to the PA not being able to control the SC and a physical incident occurring between them in which the SC was scratched.

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Known CPS History Outside of NYS

There was no known CPS history outside of NYS.

| Family Assessment and Service P | Plan (FAS | P) | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------------------|
| | | | | ı | l |
| | | Yes | No | N/A | Unable to Determine |
| Was the most recent FASP approved on time? | | \boxtimes | | | |
| Was there a current Risk Assessment Profile/Risk Assessment in the recent FASP? | ne most | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Preventive Services History | ory | | | | |
| The SC and PA received diversion services due to the SC's ungovernable was placed in foster care during the time period he was receiving services. | | ors in the | home and | l commun | nity. The SC |
| Foster Care at the Time of t | the Fata | lity | | | |
| | | | | | |
| The deceased child(ren) were in foster care at the time of the fatalit | y? Yes | | | | |
| Date deceased child(ren) was placed in care: | 05/16 | /2010 | | | |
| Date of placement with most recent caregiver? | 05/16 | Order | | | |
| How did the child(ren) enter placement? | Court | Order | | | |
| Review of Foster Care When Child was in Foster C | Care at the | time of tl | he 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? | | | | | |
| Did the placement comply with the appropriateness of placement standards? | | \boxtimes | | | |
| Was the most recent placement stable? | | \boxtimes | | | |
| Did the agency comply with sibling placement standards? | | | | | |
| Was the child AWOL at the time of death? | | \boxtimes | | | |
| If yes, did the agency comply with Absent without Consent regulat | ions? | \boxtimes | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Visitation | | | | | |
| | | Yes | No | N/A | Unable to Determine |
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|----------------------|--|
|----------------------|--|

| 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 | | | |
| | Yes | No | N/A | | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? | Yes | No | | | | | |
| Did the agency provide the foster parents with required information regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need? | | No | | | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care | | No | | | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need? If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate | | No | | | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need? If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child? | | No | | Determine | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need? If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child? Was the certification/approval for the placement current? Was a Criminal History check conducted? | | No | | Determine | | | |
| regarding the child's health, handicaps, and behavioral issues? Did the provider comply with discipline standards? Were the foster parents receiving enhanced levels of foster care payments because of child need? If yes, was foster parent provided a training program approved by OCFS that prepared the foster parent with appropriate knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the child? Was the certification/approval for the placement current? Was a Criminal History check conducted? Date: Unknown Was a check completed through the State Central Register? | | No | | Determine | | | |

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Foster Care Placement History

The SC was declared a destitute child and placed in foster care on 4/23/2018. In care, the child went AWOL frequently, used drugs, was aggressive towards staff and peers, and was suspected to have gang affiliations. The SC went AWOL from placement on 6/1/2019 and had no further contact with NCDSS.

| Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Was there any l ⊠Family Court | legal activity within three years prior to the | fatality investigation? Order of Protection | | | |
| Family Court | Petition Type: Article 10-C, Destitute Child | | | | |
| Date Filed: | Fact Finding Description: | Disposition Description: | | | |
| 04/23/2018 | There was not a fact finding | There was not a disposition | | | |
| Respondent: | None | | | | |
| Comments: | The SC was a destitute child placed in the care and custody of NCDSS. The SC was placed residentially and AWOL at the time of his death. | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Additional Local District Comments | | | | | |
| Youth was a destitute child. His PA relocated to Utah and he refused to relocate. She did not commit to plan for him. CW was in touch with her on a monthly basis, weekly contact during crises and AWOL. PA was only resource youth had. | | | | | |
| Recommended Action(s) | | | | | |
| - | ecommended actions for local or state admi | | | | |

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