

90-Day Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Case Tracking Number: 110509DSP-Outag-107 Agency: Outagamie County Dept. of Health & Human Services

Child Information: Age: 1 day Gender: Female Male
Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian - Asian
Special needs: None

Child's Residence: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Date of Incident: 5/9/11

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:

The agency was notified that a passerby found a newborn infant wrapped in a towel near a dumpster behind a local church. The umbilical cord was still attached, and the baby was suffering from hypothermia. It was medically determined that the baby was born this same day. At the time of the incident the parents were unknown. Subsequently, two teenagers were identified as the parents. They explained that they were frightened and uncertain what to do after the birth of the baby. Both parents have been criminally charged with Abandonment Of A Child and Neglecting A Child.

Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated neglect to the newborn by her parents. The infant was determined unsafe in their care. Reportedly, the mother denied that she was pregnant until she gave birth at home. Both youths explained that they attempted to take the baby to the hospital, but became scared and drove away. They wrapped the baby in a towel and left her beside a dumpster, honking the car horn as they left so that someone would explore and find the baby. Later, the boyfriend drove back to check on the baby and saw that she was gone. Both youths were frightened and uncertain what to do, so they attempted to cover up the birth. They reported that they did not know about the Safe Haven law until after this incident.

Additional information for children in home:

Description of the child's family:

The infant was born to two teenaged parents still attending high school and living at home with their respective families.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, family or alleged maltreater at the time of the incident, including any referrals received by the agency or reports being investigated at time of incident?

If "Yes", briefly describe the type of services, date(s) of last contact between agency and recipient(s) of those services, and the person(s) receiving those services:

N/A

Summary of all involvement in services as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years:

None

Summary of actions taken by the agency under ch. 48, including any investigation of a report or referrals to services involving the child, any member of the child's family living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater at the age of 18 years or older:

None

Summary of any investigation conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the family since the date of the incident:

The agency substantiated neglect to the infant by her parents, determining her unsafe in their care. The agency collaborated with law enforcement, who immediately began searching for the infant's parents. A tip from students led them to the mother, who admitted she had given birth to the abandoned baby. The baby was discharged from the hospital into a foster home. After receiving services from the agency, both parents expressed the desire to raise their child. The agency continues working with the parents, providing Ongoing Services case management. The baby remains in a safe placement, and her health continues to be monitored due to the low core body temperature at the time of abandonment, but she seems to be healthy and developmentally on track.

Additional information for children in out-of-home (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

*** Summary of actions taken by agency in response to the incident:**

The agency screened in and investigated the report of the abandoned baby. The agency collaborated with law enforcement during the investigation and began working with the young parents after they were identified. The baby was placed into foster care and later moved to another safe placement. The parents have been referred to services, and the case remains open with the agency for Ongoing Services case management.

***Summary of policy or practice changes to address identified issues:**

None

***Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:**

None

Statement of Completion:

Yes No This 90-day summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

* If a full report including agency actions, changes in policies or practices and recommendations for further changes was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.