

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

Case Tracking Number: 110705DSP-Dane-124 Agency: Dane County Dept. of Human Services

Child Information: Age: 3 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Age: 4 years Gender:  Female  Male  
Race or Ethnicity: African American  
Special needs: None

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

Date of Incident: 7/5/11

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

The two children were found deceased in a parked car early morning on July 6, 2011. The preliminary autopsy finding for cause of death was compressional asphyxiation. Reportedly, the mother and her boyfriend had a domestic dispute on July 4 that she reported to police the following day (July 5). At the same time as her call to the police, her boyfriend was picking up the children from their father's home. The children were last seen alive when they left their father's home with the boyfriend. The boyfriend has been charged with 2 counts of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Intentional Homicide and one count each of False Imprisonment and Strangulation and Suffocation.

### Findings by agency, including material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency substantiated physical abuse to both boys by their mother's boyfriend. Because there were no other children in the mother's household, child safety was not assessed. The children's mother explained that she started dating her boyfriend in the fall of 2010, and they moved in together in early 2011. She stated that her boyfriend directed violence toward her shortly after they moved in together, but he did not discipline the boys in a way that caused her to fear for their safety. She stated she never saw any signs that he would do this to the children.

On July 3, while the children were with their father, the children's mother confronted her boyfriend regarding his violent behavior in front of witnesses, and he became angry. He convinced her to return home on July 4, attacked her and prevented her from making contact with law enforcement when they arrived at the residence. On the afternoon of July 5, she went to the police station to report the incidents of the previous two days. The same day, the boyfriend picked up the children from the father's home. The boyfriend then left the children with a friend, who watched them and then took them to him per his request. The friend later became concerned when she saw him, and he did not have the children with him. Law enforcement was alerted, and the mother's boyfriend was eventually convinced to turn himself in, at which time he provided a statement. He admitted that he was the last person to be with the children before they died.

### Additional information for children in home:

#### Description of the child's family:

The children resided with their mother and her live-in boyfriend during the week, spending weekends with their father and his family.

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:

See following section.

#### 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

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

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**18 years or older:**

In October 2010, the agency screened in a report of alleged neglect. An initial assessment was conducted, and neglect by the mother was unsubstantiated. Services were offered but declined.

**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 physical abuse of the children by the mother's boyfriend. Neither biological parent was willing to meet face to face with agency staff , so the information in the assessment was gathered from telephone interviews and law enforcement records. It is believed by the mother and professionals involved in the case that the boyfriend killed the children to "get back" at the mother. The boyfriend has a long criminal history dating back to 2002. Services were offered to the families of the children but were declined. The case with the agency was closed.

**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 childrens' deaths, collaborating with law enforcement during the initial assessment. Physical abuse by the boyfriend was substantiated. The agency offered services to the childrens' families, but they declined. The agency closed the case.

**\*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.