

Child Fatality Review #08-25
Region 2
Walla Walla County

This 12-month-old Caucasian male died from respiratory arrest.

Case Overview

On June 6, 2008, the 14-year-old sister of this 12-month-old boy found him not breathing. Medics were called to the home and the child was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The deceased child's mother reported he was suffering from medical conditions prior to his death. He had seizure-like symptoms, a cold, ear infection and the onset of pneumonia just prior to his death. Law enforcement was notified and investigated this fatality. Police reported no suspicious criminal activity involving the death of this child. According to the forensic pathology report the manner of death is undetermined. The cause of death is listed as respiratory arrest of unknown origin.

Referral History

On September 25, 1998, it was reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) intake that the deceased child's mother would leave his older sister (then age five) home with teenage babysitters for days. It was alleged the home was filthy and the mother was using drugs. This referral was screened to Alternate Response System (ARS).

On February 15, 2000, CPS intake received an anonymous referral alleging unspecified neglect of the deceased child's sister. This referral was screened as Information Only.

On February 22, 2000, law enforcement notified CPS intake they received a complaint that the deceased child's mother left her child home alone and did not leave sufficient food in the home. This referral was investigated by CPS and closed with an unfounded finding.

On June 19, 2006, CPS intake received an anonymous report of possible sexual abuse of the 12-year-old sister of the deceased child by their mother's boyfriend. The boyfriend did not live in the family home. This referral was screened out as a third party referral and the information was forwarded to Walla Walla Police for further investigation.

On April 25, 2008, the mother of the deceased child called CPS intake to request Family Reconciliation Services (FRS). The mother reported her teenage daughter, sister of the deceased child, was on a truancy petition, was sneaking out of the house, was verbally aggressive at home, and was physically aggressive with peers. The mother alleged drug use by her daughter. This referral was accepted for Family Reconciliation Services.

Issues and Recommendations

Issue: There were no issues or recommendations made by this review team.

Recommendation: None