

Child Fatality Review #08-71
Region 2
Franklin County

This 10-year-old medically fragile Hispanic female died from cardiac arrest.

Case Overview

On December 6, 2008, this 10-year-old medically fragile child was brought into a Pasco area hospital with a fever of 103.8 and a swollen knee. It was later determined her leg was broken. This child was a high risk for seizures due to a severe brain injury at birth and a diagnosis of cerebral palsy. She had many hospitalizations since her birth and a disorder that caused fragility of her bone structure. It was determined that this child needed to be immediately transported to a Spokane hospital by ambulance as the local hospital could not provide the level of care that she required. This child died en route from Pasco to Spokane. Her death was not the result of abuse or neglect.

An autopsy was conducted and the medical examiner listed the manner of death as Undetermined. Her cause of death is listed as Unknown, otherwise cardiopulmonary arrest. Other conditions contributing to her death are chronic medical illness and encephalopathy (a disease of the brain).

Referral History

On May 17, 2008, hospital personnel reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) intake that this child was brought to a hospital with a fracture to her left femur. This was the fourth femur fracture in a two year period. Medical personnel did not consider the fractures suspicious injuries. This child had many special needs. She had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy with seizures and had very thin bones that were prone to easily breaking while being transferred. She is also totally bedridden and used a feeding tube. This child was to be evaluated by an orthopedic specialist. This referral was screened as Information Only.

Issues and Recommendations

Issue: None indicated

Recommendation: None