

**Child Fatality Review #09-16**  
**Region 6**  
**Clallam County**

This 9-month-old Caucasian female died from asphyxiation.

**Case Overview**

On March 18, 2009, this nine-month-old child was taken to a local hospital then flown to Harborview Hospital. She was not breathing when paramedics were called. The child's father said he was in bed with the baby. The father weighs about 300 to 350 pounds. The bed was full of bedding. There were many sacks in the bedroom. There was a plastic sack near the bed and the baby rolled over onto the plastic sack.

The manner of death is undetermined.

**Referral History**

On February 27, 2009, an anonymous report was made to Child Protective Services (CPS) intake alleging months of physical and emotional neglect on the part of the parents, toward their two daughters, ages two-years-old and eight-months-old (the deceased child). The referrer stated the family lost their house and are now living with another family who has a lot of children and dogs. The referrer stated she always felt the children were being neglected in that the mother and father never pick up and hold the children and do not interact in a caring or nurturing way. The referrer stated that the deceased child is placed in a "jumper" and stays there all day. One year prior, the parents were working outside their house and their 2-year-old cried for over one hour, and they never responded to her needs. The children do not receive any affection and the father does not show any emotion. The referrer said it appeared that the parents had no interest in their children. This intake was screened for an Alternate Response System (ARS).

On March 18, 2009, law enforcement reported to CPS intake that this nine-month-old child was airlifted to Harborview Hospital. She was not breathing when paramedics were called. The child's father said he was in bed with the baby. The father weighs about 300 to 350 pounds. The bed was full of bedding. There were many sacks in the bedroom. There was a plastic sack on the bed and the baby rolled over onto the plastic sack. The referrer said the home was not fit for anyone to be living in. There is laundry, bags of clothing, food coming out of the oven, and on top of the stove. There are power saws on the floor in the home, and a heater that is close to flammable items. This intake was accepted for investigation and closed with a founded finding for negligent treatment or maltreatment. The surviving sibling was placed in protective custody.

**Issues and Recommendations**

**Issue:** The intake received on February 27, 2009, was appropriately screened in for Alternative Intervention. This intake was referred to Healthy Families of Clallam County.

Upon receipt of the March 18, 2009 intake contact was made with Healthy Families of Clallam County to find out the status of their involvement with the family. Healthy Families of Clallam County could not locate the case or paperwork referring the family to them. They did find faxes from the date the referral was sent to them and one that had only one page but no subsequent pages.

**Action Taken:** As a result of this, Healthy Families of Clallam County is requesting that anyone from the Port Angeles DCFS office who faxes documents to them, confirm with a follow-up telephone call.