

**Child Fatality Review #11-07**  
**Region 2**  
**Chelan County**

This three-month-old Caucasian female died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Children's Administration (CA) did not have an open case on the family at the time of her death.

**Case Overview**

On February 23, 2011 this three-month-old child was found unresponsive in an infant swing while she was at the home of her licensed childcare provider. A childcare staff reported to law enforcement that the childcare owner placed the three-month-old in the stationary swing for a nap at 9:00 a.m. It was further reported the infant was checked on approximately every 15 minutes and at 10:30 a.m. was discovered not breathing. The childcare provider called 911 and attempted resuscitation efforts until medical personnel arrived.

The Chelan County Coroner determined the cause of death was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The manner of death is natural/medical.

Children's Administration did not have an open case on this child or her family at the time of her death. She was in the care of a licensed childcare provider when she died from SIDS.

**Intake History on the Childcare Provider**

The family childcare provider was provisionally licensed on September 10, 2003. She received a full license for family childcare in her home on April 5, 2004 from the Department of Early Learning (DEL).

The first licensing complaint was received on April 25, 2007. An unidentified individual contacted a DEL licensor in Wenatchee describing the childcare provider as a good provider, however had concerns regarding the use of a second story porch overlooking a steep drop off. The caller was concerned that the porch railing was not tall enough and the children had been seen using a chair to look over the edge.

Two DEL licensors went to the family childcare home to discuss the concern reported. The provider agreed to not have any children on the upper porch until the floor was replaced and the railing with slats was a minimum of four feet tall.

Additional deficiencies were identified at this same contact and additions were made to the compliance agreement. Other areas noted by DEL licensors included no fire drills, expired fire extinguishers, incomplete child files, infants sleeping in car seats and swing, unlocked medication, unlocked shed and freezer, expired CPR card by an employee and

the climbing toys in the yard were in need of ground cover. A compliance agreement to remedy the deficiencies was agreed to on May 7, 2007. On May 15, 2007 the complaint was closed as valid for the use of unlicensed childcare space referencing the porch.

On April 1, 2008 an anonymous reporter called in a licensing complaint alleging the childcare provider was out of the country and left a minor in charge of the childcare facility. The reporter stated this was not the only time this has occurred.

The original screening decision was accepted for Division of Licensed Resources/Child Protective Services (DLR/CPS) investigation with an emergent response.

On April 2, 2008 a DLR/CPS investigator and DEL licensor made an unannounced site visit to the childcare. The childcare provider's 17-year-old daughter was in charge of the childcare and reported her mother went to Mexico for a family emergency and was expected to return on April 11, 2008. There were nine children present who all appeared healthy and supervised.

The DEL licensor consulted a DEL supervisor and the decision was made to allow the childcare to remain open with a compliance agreement. The DLR investigator consulted a DLR/CPS supervisor and a decision was made to change the intake from a DLR/CPS investigation to a DEL licensing complaint based upon the absence of any child abuse and neglect victims.

A written agreement was completed with three childcare assistants that all three would remain on site during the hours of childcare operation, complete background checks that had previously been rejected and arrange for immediate tuberculosis tests. A compliance agreement could not be completed due to the provider not being available for signature.

An unannounced site visit was made on April 7, 2008. Following the visit the licensor called the childcare and requested that all the blinds in the childcare be removed as they posed a safety hazard. On April 8, 2008 the licensor returned to the childcare and all blinds had been removed.

On April 11, 2008 the provider had returned from Mexico and initiated contact with the licensor. The concerns were reviewed with the provider and the licensing complaint was closed as valid on May 19, 2008.

This family childcare completed licensing renewals on July 17, 2008 and again on April 16, 2010.

On February 23, 2011 DEL and DLR were notified of the infant fatality in this family childcare.

**Issues and Recommendations**

**Issue:** The fatality review team did not identify any issues or recommendations.

**Recommendation:** None