



**Report Identification Number: AL-21-009**

**Prepared by: New York State Office of Children & Family Services**

**Issue Date: Sep 21, 2021**

This report, prepared pursuant to section 20(5) of the Social Services Law (SSL), concerns:

- A report made to the New York Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR) involving the death of a child.
- The death of a child for whom child protective services has an open case.
- The death of a child whose care and custody or custody and guardianship has been transferred to an authorized agency.
- The death of a child for whom the local department of social services has an open preventive service case.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is mandated by section 20 of the SSL to investigate or cause for the investigation of the cause and circumstances surrounding the death, review such investigation, and prepare and issue a fatality report in regard to the categories of deaths noted above involving a child, except where a local or regional fatality review team issues a report, as authorized by law.

Such report must include: the cause of death; the identification of child protective or other services provided or actions taken regard to such child and child’s family; any extraordinary or pertinent information concerning the circumstances of the child’s death; whether the child or the child’s family received assistance, care or services from the social services district prior to the child’s death; any action or further investigation undertaken by OCFS or the social services district since the child’s death; and as appropriate, recommendations for local or state administrative or policy changes.

This report contains no information that would identify the deceased child, his or her siblings, the parent, parents, or other persons legally responsible for the child, and any members of the deceased child’s household.

By statute, this report will be forwarded to the social services district, chief county executive officer, chairperson of the local legislative body of the county where the child died and the social services district that had legal custody of the child, if different. Notice of the issuance of this report will be sent to the Speaker of the Assembly and the Temporary President of the Senate of the State of New York.

This report may **only** be disclosed to the public by OCFS pursuant to section 20(5) of the SSL. **It may be released by OCFS only after OCFS has determined that such disclosure is not contrary to the best interests of the deceased child’s siblings or other children in the household.**

OCFS’ review included an examination of actions taken by individual caseworkers and supervisors within the social services district and agencies under contract with the social services district. The observations and recommendations contained in this report reflect OCFS’ assessment and the performance of these agencies.



## Abbreviations

<b>Relationships</b>		
BM-Biological Mother	SM-Subject Mother	SC-Subject Child
BF-Biological Father	SF-Subject Father	OC-Other Child
MGM-Maternal Grand Mother	MGF-Maternal Grand Father	FF-Foster Father
PGM-Paternal Grand Mother	PGF-Paternal Grand Father	DCP-Day Care Provider
MGGM-Maternal Great Grand Mother	MGGF-Maternal Great Grand Father	PGGF-Paternal Great Grand Father
PGGM-Paternal Great Grand Mother	MA/MU-Maternal Aunt/Maternal Uncle	PA/PU-Paternal Aunt/Paternal Uncle
FM-Foster Mother	SS-Surviving Sibling	PS-Parent Sub
CH/CHN-Child/Children	OA-Other Adult	
<b>Contacts</b>		
LE-Law Enforcement	CW-Case Worker	CP-Case Planner
Dr.-Doctor	ME-Medical Examiner	EMS-Emergency Medical Services
DC-Day Care	FD-Fire Department	BM-Biological Mother
CPS-Child Protective Services		
<b>Allegations</b>		
FX-Fractures	II-Internal Injuries	L/B/W-Lacerations/Bruises/Welts
S/D/S-Swelling/Dislocation/Sprains	C/T/S-Choking/Twisting/Shaking	B/S-Burns/Scalding
P/Nx-Poisoning/ Noxious Substance	XCP-Excessive Corporal Punishment	PD/AM-Parent's Drug Alcohol Misuse
CD/A-Child's Drug/Alcohol Use	LMC-Lack of Medical Care	EdN-Educational Neglect
EN-Emotional Neglect	SA-Sexual Abuse	M/FTTH-Malnutrition/Failure-to-thrive
IF/C/S-Inadequate Food/ Clothing/ Shelter	IG-Inadequate Guardianship	LS-Lack of Supervision
Ab-Abandonment	OTH/COI-Other	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
IND-Indicated	UNF-Unfounded	SO-Sexual Offender
Sub-Substantiated	Unsub-Unsubstantiated	DV-Domestic Violence
LDSS-Local Department of Social Service	ACS-Administration for Children's Services	NYPD-New York City Police Department
PPRS-Purchased Preventive Rehabilitative Services	TANF-Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	FC-Foster Care
MH-Mental Health	ER-Emergency Room	COS-Court Ordered Services
OP-Order of Protection	RAP-Risk Assessment Profile	FASP-Family Assessment Plan
FAR-Family Assessment Response	Hx-History	Tx-Treatment
CAC-Child Advocacy Center	PIP-Program Improvement Plan	yo- year(s) old
CPR-Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation	ASTO-Allowing Sex Abuse to Occur	



## Case Information

**Report Type:** Child Deceased  
**Age:** 13 year(s)

**Jurisdiction:** Rensselaer  
**Gender:** Male

**Date of Death:** 03/26/2021  
**Initial Date OCFS Notified:** 03/29/2021

## Presenting Information

Rensselaer County Department of Social Services (RCDSS) became aware of the death of the 13-year-old subject child on 3/26/2021. The child was involved in an open investigation with concerns for educational neglect of he and the 15-year-old and 11-year-old surviving siblings. Prior to his death, the subject child ingested pills on 3/18/2021, in what was believed to have been an attempt to commit suicide. The mother (BM) sought medical attention after initially believing the child was ill, and his condition worsened overnight. The mother was unaware the child had ingested any substances prior to bringing him to the hospital. RCDSS informed OCFS of the child’s death through an OCFS Agency Reporting form on 3/29/2021, the first business day following the death of the child.

## Executive Summary

This report concerns the death of a 13-year-old subject child which occurred while in the care of his mother. The child was hospitalized on 3/18/2021 when he displayed worsening signs of illness and died on 3/26/2021 due to an overdose of the drug colchicine. The family was involved in an open investigation with concerns for educational neglect of the subject child and his two siblings, ages 15-years-old and 11-years-old.

RCDSS became aware of the child’s hospitalization on 3/26/2021 and contacted the mother. The mother informed RCDSS that the child had passed away earlier on the same day. The mother informed RCDSS that the child had displayed signs of an illness after returning from being outside with friends on the evening of 3/17/2021. On the morning of 3/18/2021, the child displayed worsening symptoms and the mother brought the child to the hospital. The child then disclosed having taken the colchicine pills and smoking marijuana obtained from unknown persons. While hospitalized, the child’s condition continued to worsen and life saving interventions were ceased on 3/26/2021. The surviving siblings were assessed as being safe in the care of the mother throughout the investigation period.

RCDSS spoke with and coordinated their investigation with law enforcement. Law enforcement and hospital staff informed RCDSS that the cause of death was identified as a colchicine overdose and it was suspected to have been a suicide. The law enforcement investigation led to the discovery that the child had made suicidal statements to the maternal uncle, and that the maternal uncle was present when the child ingested the pills. When the child became ill and displayed worsening symptoms, the uncle did not intervene or inform the mother that the child had ingested pills. The uncle was arrested and charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Court proceedings were pending at the time the investigation was closed.

## Findings Related to the CPS Investigation of the Fatality

### Safety Assessment:

- **Was sufficient information gathered to make the decision recorded on the:**
  - **Safety assessment due at the time of determination?** N/A

### Determination:



- Was sufficient information gathered to make determination(s) for all allegations N/A as well as any others identified in the course of the investigation?
- Was the determination made by the district to unfound or indicate appropriate? N/A

Was the decision to close the case appropriate? Yes

Was casework activity commensurate with appropriate and relevant statutory or regulatory requirements? Yes

Was there sufficient documentation of supervisory consultation? Yes, the case record has detail of the consultation.

**Explain:**  
 RCDSS met regulatory requirements in their investigation that was open at the time of the SC's death. RCDSS attempted to offer services to the family in relation to the death of the SC which were declined by the family.

### Required Actions Related to the Fatality

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?  Yes  No

### Fatality-Related Information and Investigative Activities

#### Incident Information

**Date of Death:** 03/26/2021 **Time of Death:** 05:15 PM

**Date of fatal incident, if different than date of death:** 03/17/2021

**Time of fatal incident, if different than time of death:** Unknown

**County where fatality incident occurred:** Rensselaer

**Was 911 or local emergency number called?** No

**Did EMS respond to the scene?** No

**At time of incident leading to death, had child used alcohol or drugs?** Yes

**Child's activity at time of incident:**

Sleeping  Working  Driving / Vehicle occupant

Playing  Eating  Unknown

Other: Ingesting pills

**Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?** No - Not needed given developmental age or circumstances

**Total number of deaths at incident event:**

**Children ages 0-18:** 1

**Adults:** 0

### Household Composition at time of Fatality



Household	Relationship	Role	Gender	Age
Deceased Child's Household	Deceased Child	No Role	Male	13 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Mother	No Role	Female	32 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Child - Cousin	No Role	Female	2 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Child - Cousin	No Role	Male	1 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Other Child - Cousin	No Role	Male	11 Month(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	15 Year(s)
Deceased Child's Household	Sibling	No Role	Male	11 Year(s)
Other Household 1	Father	No Role	Male	55 Year(s)
Other Household 2	Other Adult - BF to OCs	No Role	Male	30 Year(s)
Other Household 2	Other Adult - BM to OCs	No Role	Female	29 Year(s)

### LDSS Response

RCDSS became aware of the child's hospitalization on 3/26/2021 and contacted the BM for additional information on the condition of the SC. The BM informed RCDSS that the SC passed away on 3/26/2021.

RCDSS coordinated their response to the SC's death with LE and notified the DA of their involvement with the family. LE informed RCDSS that they had initiated their investigation into the incident on 3/18/2021 after the SC had been brought to the hospital. LE learned that on the night of 3/17/2021, multiple family members had been feeling ill after eating from a local restaurant. The SC and the SSs had left the home after dinner and were out with peers in the community. While out of the home, the SC ingested pills, which were confirmed to be colchicine, and smoked marijuana. Upon returning home, the SC became ill, vomited, and went to sleep. The BM attributed the SC feeling ill to a possible food borne illness; the SC did not disclose that he had ingested pills. The SC continued to become ill throughout the night, and on the morning of 3/18/2021, the SC appeared pale, vomited, and soiled himself. The BM made the decision to bring the SC to the hospital upon his condition worsening and the SC disclosed ingesting pills to her while en route to the hospital. LE did not believe the BM had any criminal involvement; however, were initially investigating the SC's death as a homicide.

The BM was interviewed on multiple occasions and confirmed the history of events as presented by LE. The BM initially did not think the SC's illness was serious and upon his condition worsening, brought him to the hospital where he informed her that he had ingested pills. The SC was then transferred to another facility for a higher level of care. The SC's condition continued to worsen, and he passed away in the hospital. The SSs were interviewed on multiple occasions throughout the investigation period and disclosed few details to RCDSS regarding the incident. The SSs denied knowledge of the SC ingesting any pills. The SSs were assessed as safe in the care of the BM. Multiple unsuccessful attempts were made to speak with the BF.

At the time of the SC's death, the BM was being utilized as a foster care resource for her brother's three children, ages 2-years-old, 1-year-old, and 11-months-old. Following the death of the SC, the children were moved to the care of another relative. The children were assessed as safe in the care of that relative throughout the investigation.

RCDSS obtained hospital records for the SC. The SC was diagnosed with colchicine toxicity which led to his death. Colchicine is a drug used to treat both gout and cancer.

LE informed RCDSS that as a result of their investigation, the maternal uncle (MU) had been arrested and charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The MU admitted to being present when the SC ingested the pills and that the SC had told him he did not want to be alive. When the SC became ill after ingesting the pills, the MU was present and failed to



intervene or inform the BM that the SC had ingested the pills. Court proceedings were ongoing at the time the investigation was closed.

### Official Manner and Cause of Death

**Official Manner:** Pending

**Primary Cause of Death:** Pending

**Person Declaring Official Manner and Cause of Death:** Medical Examiner

### Multidisciplinary Investigation/Review

**Was the fatality reviewed by an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team?** Yes

**Comments:** Rensselaer County has an OCFS approved Child Fatality Review Team.

### CPS Fatality Casework/Investigative Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
All children observed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When appropriate, children were interviewed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact with source?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All appropriate Collaterals contacted?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was a death-scene investigation performed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination of investigation with law enforcement?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there timely entry of progress notes and other required documentation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Fatality Safety Assessment Activities

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
Were there any surviving siblings or other children in the household?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an adequate assessment of impending or immediate danger to surviving siblings/other children in the household named in the report:				
Within 24 hours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 7 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At 30 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an approved Initial Safety Assessment for all surviving siblings/ other children in the household within 24 hours?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any safety issues that need to be referred back to the local district?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>When safety factors were present that placed the surviving siblings/other children in the household in impending or immediate danger of serious harm, were the safety interventions, including parent/caretaker actions adequate?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Explain:**  
The death was not reported to the SCR, as it was determined it was not the result of abuse or maltreatment by a caretaker.

**Fatality Risk Assessment / Risk Assessment Profile**

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
<b>Was the risk assessment/RAP adequate in this case?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>During the course of the investigation, was sufficient information gathered to assess risk to all surviving siblings/other children in the household?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Was there an adequate assessment of the family's need for services?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Did the protective factors in this case require the LDSS to file a petition in Family Court at any time during or after the investigation?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Were appropriate/needed services offered in this case</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Explain:**  
Risk of the children in the family composition was assessed and services were offered to deal with the concerns of educational neglect and the death of the SC.

**Placement Activities in Response to the Fatality Investigation**

	Yes	No	N/A	Unable to Determine
<b>Did the safety factors in the case show the need for the surviving siblings/other children in the household be removed or placed in foster care at any time during this fatality investigation?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Were there surviving children in the household that were removed either as a result of this fatality report / investigation or for reasons unrelated to this fatality?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Legal Activity Related to the Fatality**

**Was there legal activity as a result of the fatality investigation?**  
 Family Court                       Criminal Court                       Order of Protection

<b>Criminal Charge:</b> Endangering the welfare of a child <b>Degree:</b> NA			
<b>Date Charges Filed:</b>	<b>Against Whom?</b>	<b>Date of Disposition:</b>	<b>Disposition:</b>





Pending	Maternal Uncle	Pending	Pending
<b>Comments:</b>	The maternal uncle was charged with endangering the welfare of a child in relation to knowing the SC had ingested pills and not intervening. Charges were pending at the time the investigation was closed.		

### Services Provided to the Family in Response to the Fatality

Services	Provided After Death	Offered, but Refused	Offered, Unknown if Used	Not Offered	Needed but Unavailable	N/A	CDR Lead to Referral
Bereavement counseling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funeral arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foster care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homemaking Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parenting Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic Violence Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Intervention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol/Substance abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intensive case management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family or others as safety resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Were services provided to siblings or other children in the household to address any immediate needs and support their well-being in response to the fatality? Yes**

**Explain:**

Services were offered on behalf of the siblings and declined by the mother.

**Were services provided to parent(s) and other care givers to address any immediate needs related to the fatality? No**

**Explain:**

Services were offered and declined by the mother. The mother did accept financial assistance to pay for the funeral services.





## History Prior to the Fatality

## Child Information

Did the child have a history of alleged child abuse/maltreatment?	Yes
Was the child ever placed outside of the home prior to the death?	No
Were there any siblings ever placed outside of the home prior to this child's death?	No
Was the child acutely ill during the two weeks before death?	No

## CPS - Investigative History Three Years Prior to the Fatality

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
03/08/2021	Deceased Child, Male, 13 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Substantiated	No
	Sibling, Male, 15 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Substantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Substantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Lack of Medical Care	Substantiated	

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that the BM was failing to ensure the 15-year-old, 13-year-old, and 11-year-old were attending school. The three children were all fully remote learners for the 2020-2021 school year and all had excessive absences. The 11-year-old was a special education student and was also missing related services.

**Report Determination:** Indicated

**Date of Determination:** 08/02/2021

**Basis for Determination:**

RCDSS received the SCR report and initiated their investigation into the allegations and assessing the safety of the children. RCDSS interviewed all household members and relevant collateral contacts. At the time of the SCR report, the 15-year-old child had missed 58 days, the 13-year-old had missed 60 days, and the 11-year-old had missed 80 days of school. The 11-year-old was also behind on the milestones set forth in his IEP. The 13-year-old child passed away during the open investigation. RCDSS offered services in relation to the death of the child and for the educational neglect of the SSs. The allegations were substantiated and the investigation was closed.

**OCFS Review Results:**

RCDSS met with the members of the household and relevant collateral contacts to gather evidence regarding the allegations and the death of the 13-year-old child. A determination of the allegations was made in accordance with the evidence gathered. The 2-year-old, 1-year-old, and 11-month old children had been in Article 10 custody of the BM and were moved to another resource by RCDSS following the death of the 13-year-old child. The children were assessed as safe throughout the investigation period and remained engaged with RCDSS through a services case.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
12/21/2020	Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated	No



Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 8 Months	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Food / Clothing / Shelter	Unsubstantiated

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that the home had a history of being unsanitary and had trash piled up and was emitting a foul odor. The home posed a risk to the safety of the children in the home.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded**Date of Determination:** 03/11/2021**Basis for Determination:**

RCDSS received the report and initiated their investigation through familial interviews. The mother was a foster care resource for her niece and two nephews, 2-years-old, 1-year-old, and 9-months old. The 15-year-old, 13-year-old, and 11-year-old children also lived in the household. The home was observed by RCDSS throughout the investigation to be free of health and safety concerns and the mother moved to a new home with no health or safety concerns observed. Concerns for educational neglect of the mother's biological children were identified in a subsequent report and were investigated separately.

**OCFS Review Results:**

RCDSS interviewed family members and relevant collateral contacts to gather information to make their determination of the allegations. There were no concerns present for the condition of the home or the care of the three foster children in the mother's care. The allegations were unsubstantiated in accordance with the evidence gathered and visible observations of the home made by RCDSS throughout the investigation.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
10/30/2020	Deceased Child, Male, 13 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	No
	Deceased Child, Male, 13 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Educational Neglect	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 32 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that the 14-year-old, 13-year-old, and 11-year-old were failing the 2020-2021 school year due to a lack of attendance. The children had missed between 19-22 days of school. The mother was aware of the concern and failed to ensure the children participated in virtual learning.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded**Date of Determination:** 01/13/2021**Basis for Determination:**

RCDSS received the SCR report and conducted familial interviews and assessed the safety of the children in the home. RCDSS observed the children had the appropriate materials from the school to complete virtual learning and spoke with them about the importance of being present for virtual lessons. The mother reported the children were defiant in attending



classes and virtual programming. The allegations were unsubstantiated due to the children's improved grade performance following CPS involvement and there were no health or safety concerns identified for the children in the home.

**OCFS Review Results:**

RCDS interviewed the family members and relevant collateral contacts. A determination of the allegations was made in accordance with evidence gathered. At the time of the report the children were provided with the necessary materials to complete their school work and participate in virtual programming. The BF of the children was interviewed and identified no concerns for the safety of the children. There were no health or safety concerns present for the children in the care of the mother and the investigation was closed.

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?  Yes  No

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
06/16/2020	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated		



Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Father, Male, 54 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Father, Male, 54 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - BF to OCs, Male, 29 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated



Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - Unrelated adult named on report, Male, 72 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Sibling, Male, 10 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Male, 1 Years	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated
Other Child - Cousin, Female, 2 Months	Other Adult - BM to OCs, Female, 28 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that there were 5 adults and 6 children residing in a small trailer. The adults left the children unsupervised for unknown amounts of time. While unsupervised, the 12-year-old child started a physical altercation with peers. The issue of lack of supervision was ongoing.





**Report Determination:** Unfounded **Date of Determination:** 07/09/2020

**Basis for Determination:**  
RCDSS initiated their investigation and learned that only the mother of the 14-year-old, 12-year-old and 10-year-old lived in the home with her children and the mother of the 2-year-old, 1-year-old, and 2-month-old and her children. The allegations for a lack of supervision of the children were unsubstantiated due to a lack of credible evidence. An Article 10 Neglect Petition was filed against the mother and father of the OCs and custody was awarded to the mother of the elder children on the report. The neglect petition was unrelated to the allegations of this investigation. The investigation was closed and the family remained involved with RCDSS through an open foster care services case.

**OCFS Review Results:**  
RCDSS met with the family and gathered information from relevant collateral contacts to collect evidence regarding the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated due to a lack of credible evidence to show that the children in the home were left unsupervised for any inappropriate amount of time.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
03/12/2020	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 31 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 14 Years	Mother's Partner, Male, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 12 Years	Mother's Partner, Male, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 11 Years	Mother's Partner, Male, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**  
The SCR report alleged concerns for the mother's mental health and that she had threatened to set the home on fire with the children present. The children have not sustained any injuries. A subsequent report made the same date alleged that the parent substitute (PS) was physically violent with the mother in the presence of the children.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded **Date of Determination:** 04/14/2020

**Basis for Determination:**  
RCDSS conducted the investigation into the allegations through familial interviews. The allegations in the report were denied by the family members. The mother was engaged in mental health treatment, and there were no concerns the mother's mental health impacted her ability to care for her children. The PS was incarcerated and unable to be interviewed due to COVID-19 protocols in place by the jail.

**OCFS Review Results:**  
RCDSS met with the family and gathered information from relevant collateral contacts to make a determination of the allegations. RCDSS determined that there was no credible evidence to substantiate the allegations in the report and the investigation was closed.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No



Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
10/17/2019	Sibling, Male, 12 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Sibling, Male, 12 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Deceased Child, Male, 11 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 9 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	
	Sibling, Male, 9 Years	Mother, Female, 30 Years	Lack of Supervision	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that the mother was not providing adequate supervision of the 13-year-old, 12-year-old and 10-year old children. While unsupervised, the children attempted to break into a vacant home and the 10-year-old was acting out in sexually inappropriate ways. The mother was aware of the concerns and failed to adequately supervise the children.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded**Date of Determination:** 11/13/2019**Basis for Determination:**

RCDSS conducted the investigation and through familial contacts learned that the children were having issues with a female peer in the neighborhood and that they were not the children attempting to break into homes or acting out inappropriately. LE was involved with investigating the incident and felt the 10-year-old child had not acted sexually inappropriate with the female peer and closed their investigation. LE believed that the female peer the children were having issues with falsely accused the children of attempting to break into vacant homes and being sexually inappropriate with her. RCDSS unfounded the allegations due to a lack of credible evidence.

**OCFS Review Results:**

RCDSS interviewed the family members and obtained information from relevant collateral contacts. A determination of the allegations was made in accordance with the evidence gathered and the investigation was closed.

**Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?**  Yes  No

Date of SCR Report	Alleged Victim(s)	Alleged Perpetrator(s)	Allegation(s)	Allegation Outcome	Compliance Issue(s)
04/12/2018	Sibling, Male, 8 Years	Mother, Female, 29 Years	Inadequate Guardianship	Unsubstantiated	No
	Sibling, Male, 8 Years	Mother, Female, 29 Years	Lack of Medical Care	Unsubstantiated	

**Report Summary:**

The SCR report alleged that the 8-year-old child required a mental health evaluation due to a history of mental health issues. The child identified having auditory hallucinations and was suspended from school for threatening to shoot people and for being physically aggressive towards others. The mother failed to follow through with appointments to have the child evaluated. The other siblings had an unknown role.

**Report Determination:** Unfounded**Date of Determination:** 08/07/2018**Basis for Determination:**

RCDSS received the SCR report and initiated the investigation into the allegations. RCDSS learned from the mother that she had an issue with her insurance and assisted the mother with correcting the issue. The 8-year-old child became





engaged with mental health services shortly after the issue was corrected. The other children were assessed as safe in the care of the mother and the investigation was unsubstantiated and closed.

**OCFS Review Results:**

RCDSS met with the family and relevant collateral contacts to gather information on the allegations in the report. After assisting with correcting the insurance issue the mother engaged the child in mental health treatment and there were no other concerns present for the siblings. A determination of the allegations was made in accordance with the evidence gathered.

Are there Required Actions related to the compliance issue(s)?  Yes  No

**CPS - Investigative History More Than Three Years Prior to the Fatality**

The mother was named as a subject of 11 total reports which contained allegations for the mother not supervising the children, drug sales from the home, and mental health concerns for the mother. All of these historical reports were unsubstantiated.

**Known CPS History Outside of NYS**

There is no known CPS history outside of NYS.

**Foster Care Placement History**

The three maternal cousins were placed with the BM under an Article 10 petition being monitored by RCDSS. There were no concerns for the care of the children by the BM at the time of the SC's death. The foster care placement for these children changed due to the concerns for educational neglect of the mother's biological children and to allow the family to grieve the loss of the SC.

**Legal History Within Three Years Prior to the Fatality**

Was there any legal activity within three years prior to the fatality investigation? There was no legal activity

**Recommended Action(s)**

Are there any recommended actions for local or state administrative or policy changes?  Yes  No

Are there any recommended prevention activities resulting from the review?  Yes  No