

# CHILD WELFARE AGENCY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE FORM

**Date:** 1/9/15

**Agency Name:** Washoe County Department of Social Services

**Agency Address:** P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520

**Date of written notification to the Division of Child and Family Services and Legislative**

**Auditor:** 12/10/14

**Internal reference UNITY ID or Report Number:** UNITY #1390947 REPORT #1622142

**Type of Report:**  48 Hour Notice  15 Day Update  30 Day Update  Final

**Child Fatality** **Date of Death:** 12/10/14

**Near Fatality** **Date of Near Fatality:**

**Portions of information on this form have been withheld at the request of**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **law enforcement.**

(Name of agency)

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## Information for Release:

**A. Date of the notification to the child welfare agency of the death of a child:**

12/10/14

**B. Location of child at the time of death or near fatality (city/county):**

Sun Valley/Washoe County

**C. A summary of the report of abuse or neglect and a factual description of the contents of the report:**

WCDSS was notified that emergency response personnel responded to a call regarding an infant who was found by the caregiver as face down on a bed. The infant was pronounced deceased.

**D. The date of birth and gender of child:**

9/3/14; male

**E. The date that the child suffered the fatality or near fatality:**

12/10/14

**F. The cause of the fatality or near fatality, if such information has been determined:**

Official cause of this fatality is pending autopsy results.

**G. Whether the agency had any contact with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and, if so:**

- (1) The frequency of any contact or communication with the child or a member of the child's family or household before the fatality or near fatality and the date on which the last contact or communication occurred before the fatality or near fatality;
- (2) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services provided any child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (3) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services made any referrals for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality;
- (4) Whether the agency which provides child welfare services took any other actions concerning the welfare of the child before or at the time of the fatality or near fatality; and
- (5) A summary of the status of the child's case at the time of the fatality or near fatality, including, without limitation, whether the child's case was closed by the agency which provides child welfare services before the fatality or near fatality and, if so, the reasons that the case was closed.

10/3/13 – WCDSS received a report that was coded as information only alleging the parents yell and swear at the children causing them to cry.

7/7/14 – WCDSS received a report that was coded as information referral stating that the mother is pregnant and using drugs and that the children are frequently left with the grandparents.

9/5/14 – WCDSS received a report that both mother and newborn tested positive for amphetamines and limited prenatal care. No present danger was identified at the time of the report. Referral vouchers were submitted for the parents to participate in individual combined substance abuse/psychosocial evaluations at ACCS. The allegations were found to be unsubstantiated and although the case was approved for closure, the case was open at the time of the fatality.

9/29/14 – WCDSS received a report that was coded as information only stating that law enforcement responded to a call of lack of supervision and spanking of a child. The father was asleep in his vehicle with a child asleep in the car seat but the child had awoken and got out of the car wandering into the local store. The mother spanked the child two times on the bottom. The child had no observable injuries and law enforcement did not cite either parent for lack of supervision.

12/1/14 – WCDSS received a report that was coded as information only alleging that the parents use methamphetamines, the child had access to drug paraphernalia approximately two weeks before and the children get punished and spanked for seeking care or attention from the relatives who reside in the same home as the family. The home is messy with clothes and shoes. Report also states that the parents leave the children with friends or in a play pen all day.

**H. Whether the agency which provides child welfare services, in response to the fatality or near fatality:**

- (1) Has provided or intends to provide child welfare services to the child or to a member of the child's family or household; and (2) Has made or intends to make a referral for child welfare services for the child or for a member of the child's family or household; and (3) Has taken or intends to take any other action concerning the welfare and safety of the child or any member of the child's family or household.

WCDSS continues to conduct a joint investigation with law enforcement. The siblings to the deceased child remain in protective custody.

NON-DISCLOSURE NOTICE

The following information must not be released (see Policy on Public Disclosure of Child Fatality and Near Fatality Information, page 4):

- 1) Information regarding the sibling(s) of a deceased child; 2) the name of the reporting party or individual making an allegation or

referral will not be released; 3) if the disclosure of the information would adversely affect any pending investigation concerning a report (NRS 432B.290(3); 4) if the disclosure violates other federal or state law, including, but not limited to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Family Educational and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), alcohol and drug abuse patient records (42 USC §290dd-2 and 42 CFR §212 (c)(6)), and any other applicable law.

## ATTACHMENT

### Administration on Families and Children, Child Welfare Policy Manual, CAPTA, Section 2 excerpt, March 16, 2006:

#### 2.1A.4 CAPTA, Assurances and Requirements, Access to Child Abuse and Neglect Information, Public disclosure

**1. Question:** The CAPTA amendments at section 106 (b)(2)(vi) require States to provide for the public disclosure of findings or information about a case of child abuse or neglect which results in a child fatality or near fatality. For the purposes of this requirement, what is considered a "near fatality"?

**Answer:** A "near fatality" is defined under section 106 (b)(4)(A) as "...an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition." For example, if hospital records reflect that the child's condition is "serious" or "critical", this would be considered a "near fatality" under CAPTA.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-NCCAN-PIQ-97-01 (3/4/97) (updated 2/3/05)
- **Legal and Related References:** Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) - section 106

**2. Question:** The requirement for public disclosure states that "findings or information" about a case must be disclosed. Does this mean that States have the option to disclose either the findings of the case, or information which may be general in nature and address such things as practice issues rather than provide case-specific information?

**Answer:** No. The intent of this provision was to assure that the public is informed about cases of child abuse or neglect which result in the death or near death of a child. As with the use of the other "or's" in this provision ("child abuse or neglect" and "child fatality or near fatality"), we understand the language to be inclusive and not limiting.

Specifically, the reference to "findings or information" requires the disclosure of information about such a case even if there are no findings. Thus, when child abuse or neglect results in the death or near death of a child, the State must provide for the disclosure of the available facts. However, nothing in this provision should be interpreted to require disclosure of information which would jeopardize a criminal investigation or proceeding.

- **Source/Date:** ACYF-NCCAN-PIQ-97-01 (3/4/97) (updated 2/3/05)
- **Legal and Related References:** Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) - section 106