



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

COMMISSIONER  
John J. Specia, Jr.

### **A Review of Department of Family and Protective Services Involvement Child Fatality**

On March 19, 2015, Adrian Langlais died after suffering significant physical trauma while in the care of his mother's paramour. Since Adrian's birth on March 18, 2013, Child Protective Services (CPS) conducted one investigation into multiple allegations that Adrian Langlais had been physically abused.

The Office of Child Safety (OCS) completed a review of all current and past CPS investigations concerning Adrian's family. This report presents the Office of Child Safety's findings, summary of CPS investigations, assessment of strengths in casework practice, and areas for improvement. This report describes the timeline and actions taken by CPS as well as issues found during the review of CPS' involvement with the family and the tragic death of Adrian that merit further examination.

#### **Family Composition**

Region 3 - Tarrant County

Name or Relationship to Adrian Langlais	Age at time of incident
Adrian Langlais	2
Mother	29
Mother's Paramour	22
Paramour's Mother	38
Father	29

#### **Summary of CPS History on Adrian / Family of Adrian Langlais**

- On December 23, 2014, CPS received a report alleging neglectful supervision and physical abuse of twenty month-old Adrian by his mother and her paramour as well as neglectful supervision by Adrian's father. The investigation was closed on February 19, 2015, with all allegations ruled out.
- On December 28, 2014, a second report was received alleging physical abuse of Adrian by his mother and her paramour. This intake was investigated as part of the original investigation started on December 23, 2014.
- On January 27, 2015, a third report was received alleging physical abuse and neglectful supervision of Adrian. This intake was investigated as part of the original investigation started on December 23, 2014.

- On March 18, 2015, CPS received a report that Adrian was transported to the hospital after suffering non-accidental trauma. The investigation into his death has been completed.

### **Detailed Account of CPS History on Family of Adrian Langlais**

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On **December 23, 2014**, CPS received a report alleging neglectful supervision and physical abuse of twenty month-old Adrian by his mother and her paramour as well as neglectful supervision by Adrian's father. The report alleged that Adrian had several bruises, scratches, and small cuts appearing over the past 45 days, including bruising that appeared to be a handprint. There were concerns that the mother was intoxicated when she picked up Adrian from a friend's home. The investigation was assigned as a Priority 1 investigation, requiring the investigation to be initiated within 24 hours. Attempts were made December 23, 2014, December 24, 2014, and December 25, 2014.

On **December 28, 2014**, CPS received a second report alleging physical abuse of Adrian by his mother and her paramour. Allegations included that the mother had untreated bipolar disorder and would become overly aggressive. It was reported that Adrian was seen with a bruise that appeared to be a handprint on his leg and a bruise to his neck. There was concern that Adrian was afraid of the mother's paramour and refused to go to the paramour who was supposed to be caring for Adrian on his own. Additionally, there were concerns that the mother was intoxicated when picking up Adrian from another caregiver's home. This intake was investigated as part of the original investigation started on December 23, 2014.

Adrian was not seen until December 29, 2014. Adrian had no visible injuries during this investigation. The investigator made contact with Adrian's biological father who had no concerns for his son with the mother. While Adrian primarily resided with his mother, the father had some visitation with Adrian. The mother stated that she never left Adrian by himself with her paramour. The investigator made contact with several collaterals including relatives that saw Adrian weekly as well as the primary care physician for Adrian. No concerns were noted by these collaterals. The mother and the paramour admitted to smoking marijuana while out at a party but tested negative on an oral swab test. A safety plan was made with the parents stating that they would not smoke marijuana and would not allow Adrian to be around a previous caregiver.

On **January 27, 2015**, a third report was received alleging physical abuse and neglectful supervision of Adrian. It was alleged that Adrian had a large bruise and swelling to his forehead with scratches under his chin and neck area. Adrian also appeared to more aggressive including attempting to hit and bite others. This intake was investigated as part of the original investigation started on December 23, 2014. Explanations for these injuries were that they were from rough housing while in the care of the paramour's mother and her children. Adrian was seen on January 29, 2015 with no signs of injury. Additional allegations included that the mother was drinking alcohol daily and would drink to the point of intoxication or passing out. There was no follow-up with the paramour's mother about the new allegation and no additional assessments of the mother's alcohol or substance abuse history.

On **February 19, 2015**, the investigation was closed with the allegations of physical abuse and neglectful supervision of Adrian by his mother and her paramour ruled out as there were no outward signs of physical abuse during the investigation. Although the mother and paramour admitted to using marijuana, it was allegedly not in the presence of the child. The allegations of

neglectful supervision of Adrian by his father was ruled out as there was no evidence that Adrian was being left in a dangerous situation.

#### **OCS Assessment:**

- The investigation was assigned as a Priority 1 investigation, requiring the investigation to be initiated within 24 hours. Attempts were made December 23, 2014, December 24, 2014, and December 25, 2014. No attempts to make contact were made between December 26, 2014, and December 28, 2014. Adrian was not seen until December 29, 2014.
- Although the allegations were about physical abuse to a child and a Priority 1 investigation, case documentation on why joint contact was not made with law enforcement states that there was no need of law enforcement involvement. There is no documentation to signify if CPS followed up with law enforcement to check the status of their investigation. While law enforcement is notified through DFPS' statewide intake system of all reports of abuse/neglect assigned to CPS for investigation, and that was done in this case (to Fort Worth Police Department), it is the responsibility of the investigator to follow up with law enforcement to ensure a joint investigation occurs in particular cases. CPS Handbook section 2230 Investigation Tasks requires that a joint investigation with law enforcement be arranged if the investigation is a Priority 1 (P1) and sexual abuse (SXAB) or physical abuse (PHAB) is alleged. If for some reason a joint investigation cannot occur, the reason(s) must be documented by the caseworker. That did not occur in this case.
- Information gathered during the investigation reflects that pictures of Adrian's injuries were taken by a caregiver and sent to the investigator, but no follow-up was done in regards to these photographs. Additionally, the investigator did not have medical professionals or law enforcement review these photographs.
- The allegations of physical abuse received on January 27, 2015, implied that they were from children at the paramour's mother's home. No contact was made with the paramour's mother or the children residing at her home to investigate these allegations.
- Information gathered during the investigation suggested that there was a history of domestic violence between the mother and her current and former paramours. The investigator did not obtain service call information from law enforcement to check if there had been any callouts to the home or discuss domestic violence in depth with the mother.
- Although the mother and her paramour both had a history with marijuana use, a detailed history and assessment of their substance abuse was not completed. Allegations surrounding the mother's alcohol abuse to the point of losing consciousness were never addressed.

On **March 18, 2015**, CPS received a report that Adrian was being transported to the hospital after becoming unresponsive at home. The mother's paramour was the only person home with Adrian when the first responders arrived. Adrian had several injuries, including a skull fracture, detached/injured retinas, bruising to his body in several areas, a bite mark on his foot, and a wound on his back. Adrian was pronounced deceased on March 19, 2015, a day after his second birthday. The investigation into his death has been completed and the death has been found as being caused by physical abuse.

## **Overall Case Review Findings and Recommendations**

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CPS had completed an investigation into allegations of physical abuse and neglectful supervision of Adrian Langlais from December 23, 2014, through February 19, 2015. During the investigation, the investigator did not see any injuries to Adrian. Other than a previous caregiver to Adrian, no other family members or collaterals contacted during the investigation had concerns for Adrian's safety. Assessments completed with the mother and her paramour lacked detailed information regarding their history and impact of substance abuse and domestic violence on Adrian's safety. Because of the nature of the allegations, a joint investigation with law enforcement should have been conducted unless there was a reason why law enforcement could not complete a joint investigation. Law enforcement has been responsive to the Department and it does not appear that law enforcement was unavailable or unwilling to assist staff. There was discussion of pictures of the various injuries to Adrian existing but the investigator did not review these photographs nor provide them to others such a medical professionals or law enforcement to review.

One month after closing the investigation, Adrian died from inflicted physical abuse. The investigation into his death has been completed and the death has been found as being caused by physical abuse. Allegations of medical neglect and neglectful supervision of Adrian by his mother and her paramour were all found reason to believe. The allegation of physical abuse of Adrian by his mother's paramour was also found reason to believe.

During the review of a case involving a child fatality, certain areas of improvement may be identified including individual training needs, statewide trainings, policy revisions, updates to best practice guidance, and/or revisions to state statutes. Child Protective Services placed the original investigator on desk duty at the time of the fatality and is in the process of addressing concerns through personnel action.

Additionally, OCS recommends the following areas for further analysis by CPS:

- Additional training or best practice guidance to field staff including:
  - Law enforcement should be contacted for Priority 1 (P1) investigations when sexual abuse (SXAB) or physical abuse (PHAB) is alleged.
  - Ensure all allegations are thoroughly addressed in particular when multiple referrals are received and merged.
  - When collaterals or reporters have additional information, such as photographs or information gathered from social media, staff should review the information or collect copies for the investigation. Photographs of alleged physical abuse injuries should be reviewed by the Forensic Assessment Center Network to help determine cause or seriousness of the injuries. Additionally, this information should be provided to law enforcement to help inform the criminal investigation.