



CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

NOTICE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IS CONTAINED THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT. Pursuant to sections 2151.421, 5101.13 through 5101.134 and 5153.17 of the Ohio Revised Code and section 5180:2-33-21 and 5180:2-33-70 of the Ohio Administrative Code, unauthorized dissemination or re-release of such confidential information is prohibited and may be punishable as a misdemeanor in the fourth degree.

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**Ohio Department of Children and Youth
Bureau of Children Services Practice Advancement
Child Fatality Review**

PURPOSE OF THE REVIEW

At the request of the Director of Lucas County Children Services (LCCS), the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) conducted a review on the [REDACTED] case as a result of the March 24, 2025, death of Kei’mani Latigue. The purpose of the review is to assess compliance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and to assess casework practice and service provision.

A review was conducted by Technical Assistance Specialist Kate McGrain. The period under review (PUR) was December 8, 2023, through March 24, 2025. The case review process was comprised of an examination of both the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) and interviews with casework and supervisory staff assigned to the case during the period under review

Identifying Information/Case Participants

Name	Role	DOB	Relationship to Target Child
Kei’mani Latigue (K.L.)	Alleged Child Victim	03/28/2011	N/A
[REDACTED]	Alleged Perpetrator/Prior Legal Guardian	[REDACTED]	Prior Legal Guardian/Target Child was not living with the guardian at the time of the referral and/or reports.
[REDACTED]	Alleged Perpetrator/Caregiver/Legal Guardian	[REDACTED]	Legal Guardian to Target Child

Documents Reviewed

- SACWIS case record

Parties Interviewed

- [REDACTED] - Intake Caseworker
- [REDACTED] - Intake Supervisor
- [REDACTED] - Intake Caseworker

- [REDACTED] - Intake Supervisor
- [REDACTED] – Home Study Assessor
- [REDACTED] – Home Study Supervisor

Case Summary

On December 8, 2023, Lucas County Children Services received a referral concerning physical abuse allegations involving K.L. with the alleged perpetrator reported to be her legal guardian at the time, [REDACTED]. The referral was screened in and opened for investigation in a traditional response pathway. During the investigation it was discovered the target child was not residing with her legal guardian but with a kinship caregiver, [REDACTED]. The target child, legal guardian and caregiver were all interviewed, and the target child was interviewed separately from her caregiver and guardian. The target child, while being spoken to alone, advised the allegations were false, that she felt safe in her caregiver’s home, and was being provided with all her basic needs such as food, shelter, medical care and clothing. The caregiver expressed her willingness to continue to care for the child and was in the process of obtaining legal guardianship of the target child. The investigative caseworker along with the investigative supervisor determined through both informal (face-to-face interviews in accordance with *OAC 5180:2-36-03*) and formal assessments (Safety Assessment and Family Assessment tools in accordance with *OAC 5180:2-37-01 and 5180:2-37-03*) that there were no active safety concerns, and the report was closed, with an unsubstantiated disposition, on January 2, 2024.

On March 21, 2024, Lucas County Children Services received a referral concerning physical abuse and emotional maltreatment allegations involving K.L. with the alleged perpetrator reported to be her caregiver, [REDACTED]. The referral was screened in and opened for investigation in a traditional response pathway. During the investigation, the target child and caregiver were all interviewed, and the child was interviewed separately from her caregiver. The child, while being spoken to alone, advised the allegations were false, that she felt safe in her caregiver’s home, and the caseworker did not observe any marks or bruise on the target child that would indicate physical abuse. The investigative caseworker along with the investigative supervisor determined through both informal (face-to-face interviews in accordance with *OAC 5180:2-36-03*) and formal assessments (Safety Assessment and Family Assessment tools in accordance with *OAC 5180:2-37-01 and 5180:2-37-03*) that there were no active safety concerns, and the report was closed, with an unsubstantiated disposition, on April 5, 2024.

On October 9, 2024, Lucas County Children Services received a Kinship Permanency Incentive Program Application from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. had been granted legal guardianship of K.L. by the Lucas County Juvenile Court through a private filing. As required by *OAC 5180:2-40-04*, Lucas County

Children Services completed a full home assessment and background check on [REDACTED] to ensure the child’s safety in the home before temporary financial assistance was granted to the legal guardian. A home assessment was completed including separate interviews with both the legal guardian and child, and a full assessment of the target child’s living environment. The home assessment was approved on December 13, 2024.

Within the period under review of December 8, 2023, through March 25, 2025, LCCS received four intakes involving K.L.; three intakes alleged child abuse and/or neglect, and one intake was a home study request. LCCS was not involved with the family at the time of the child’s death on March 24, 2025.

Date Intake Received	Intake Type	Screening Decision
12/08/23	Physical Abuse	Screened In-Traditional Response
03/21/24	Emotional Maltreatment/Physical Abuse	Screened In-Traditional Response
03/21/24	Physical Abuse	Screened Out-Duplicate Intake
10/09/24	Family in Need of Services-Home Evaluation	Screened In-Kinship Permanency Incentive Home Study

CASE REVIEW

Timeliness of Initiating Investigations

The screening decision is a formal process that is completed by the county Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) and is documented in the case record. All reported information the referent believes may place a child at risk of abuse or neglect must be documented in SACWIS, regardless of the agency’s screening decision. A *referral* is the allegation of child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency made to the PCSA either verbally or in writing. A *report* is the documented screening decision based upon information obtained from the referent.

OAC 5180:2-36-03 *PCSA Requirements for Intra-Familial Child Abuse and/or Neglect Assessment/Investigations*, requires that all non-emergency reports of abuse and/or neglect accepted into the traditional response pathway be initiated within twenty-four hours and face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim be made within the first four working days from the time the referral was screened in by the agency.

Both child maltreatment reports received during the period under review were initiated timely,

within 24 hours, and face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim occurred in accordance with OAC 5180:2-36-03 *PCSA Requirements for Intra-Familial Child Abuse and/or Neglect Assessment/Investigations*.

On December 8, 2023, at 9:03a.m., the agency accepted a child maltreatment report under the traditional response pathway alleging that the target child had been physically abused by her then guardian, [REDACTED]. The agency initiated the report on December 8, 2023, at 1:45 p.m. by making an unannounced home visit to the guardian’s residence. This attempt was unsuccessful, but the caseworker was able to make phone contact with the guardian who advised the target child was residing with a grandmother. The caseworker contacted the grandmother, and an announced home visit was conducted at 3:05 pm that same day. The child’s safety was assessed at this home visit and interviews were conducted with both the caregiver and target child. The caseworker also conducted a face-to-face visit with the legal guardian, who was residing separately from the target child, on December 8, 2023.

On March 21, 2024, at 11:24 a.m., the agency accepted a child maltreatment report under the traditional response pathway alleging the target child had been physically abused and emotionally maltreated by her caregiver, [REDACTED]. The agency initiated the report on March 21, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. with an unannounced home visit to the caregiver’s residence. This attempt was unsuccessful, but a second unannounced home visit was conducted on March 25, 2024, at 8:45 a.m. in which the caseworker was able to conduct interviews with both the caregiver and the target child, as well as assess the safety in the home.

Reports of Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Dependency

Screened-In Report Date	Date Report Initiated	Initiation Type	Initiated in Accordance With OAC	Date of Face-to-Face Contact	Face-to-Face Contact Occurred in Accordance With OAC
12/08/2023	12/08/2023	Unannounced Home Visit (A)	Yes	12/08/2023	Yes
03/21/2024	03/21/2024	Unannounced Home Visit (A)	Yes	03/25/2024	Yes

*(A) = Attempt

Technical Assistance

No technical assistance was provided as OAC requirements were followed and documented appropriately on this report.

Assessment of Risk and Safety

Risk and safety assessments are completed on all reports of abuse, neglect, and dependency accepted by the PCSA. The purpose of the risk and safety assessment is to determine whether concerns are present for children in their home and to identify any necessary interventions to ensure their safety and mitigate risk. Risk and safety assessments are completed formally and informally from case inception through case closure. The Comprehensive Assessment Planning Model (CAPM) Safety Assessment required by OAC 5180: 2-37-01 *PCSA Requirements for Completing the Safety Assessment* is a formal assessment of child vulnerability, adult protective capacities, and active safety threats to determine if a child is safe in the home or whether a PCSA must intervene to protect the child. The CAPM Family Assessment required by OAC 5180: 2-37-03 *PCSA Requirements for Completing the Family Assessment* is a formal assessment of risk to the child and identifies a family's strengths and needs to determine if ongoing services are to be provided by the PCSA. Informal assessments are made during face-to-face contacts with the family members, observations of interactions between family members, observations of the conditions of the living environment, as well as contacts with collaterals and witnesses. The frequency and quality of these visits correlate to the caseworker's ability to accurately assess the family and determine child safety and risk on an ongoing basis.

Comprehensive assessments of safety and risk occurred through interviews with the legal guardian, caregiver, target child, and collateral contacts as well as through formal Safety and Family Assessments. The case record showed, and interviewees confirmed, that on the three separate occasions the target child was interviewed without her caregiver/guardian present. In all three interviews the target child denied all allegations, stated she felt safe in the home, and wanted to maintain living with her caregiver/guardian. All the required parties were interviewed about the allegations and all interviews were of good quality. Interview questions and discussions with case participants addressed not only allegations, but also general safety in the home such as basic needs being met, the relationship between the target child and her caregiver, safety concerns outside of the home, including with peers and school staff, and medical and educational care. The formal assessment of the child's needs and safety and risk were completed through a safety assessment and a family assessment. The safety assessment on the March 2024 report and both family assessments were completed timely according to the OAC and were comprehensive. On the December 2023 report, the target child and her caregiver were interviewed face-to-face within the first working day but the formal Safety Assessment in Ohio SACWIS was not recorded within ten working days from the date of the report screen-in as required by OAC 5180:2-37-01 *PCSC requirements for completing the safety*

assessment. The delay in this formal documentation of safety did not directly affect the safety of the child nor the investigation process.

The agency evaluated [REDACTED]'s home, who was K.L.'s legal guardian, through a kinship home assessment. Background checks were completed on all adults living in the home (SACWIS and criminal background checks) and it was determined the home was a safe living environment for the child.

Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance was provided on *OAC 5180:2-37-01 (E) PSCA requirements for completing the safety assessment* which requires the agency to record the "Safety Assessment" in Ohio SACWIS within ten working days from the date the report was screened in.

Needs Assessment for Services

For parents/caregivers to have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, an accurate and comprehensive assessment of the family's needs must occur. An evaluation of an individual family member's needs takes place initially through a Family Assessment and, on an ongoing basis, via Semiannual Administrative Reviews as required by *OAC 5180:2-38-10 PSCA Requirements for Completing the Semiannual Administrative Review*. Assessment of needs also take place informally through face-to-face contacts, home visits, contacts with service providers, and service provider reports. The initial assessment includes an evaluation to identify the family's strengths and needs, which informs case status decisions and what service needs are present. Ongoing needs assessment consists of a review of the family's strengths and needs, and the impact that services have on enhancing protective capacities, reducing risk and strengthening family functioning.

The agency informally assessed the target child's needs and guardian's needs during face-to-face contacts. The visits were of sufficient duration and quality to assess the participants' needs. The agency identified the target child was struggling with some behavioral concerns and the guardian indicated willingness for assistance with appropriate discipline techniques for the child. The agency conducted a formal comprehensive assessment of the child's needs through the Family Assessment tool which did not indicate any other needs for either the target child or guardian.

At the time of the kinship home assessment, the family needed fire alarms per *OAC 5180:2-42-18 PSCA and PCPA approval of placements with relative and nonrelative substitute caregivers*, and LCCS provided the family with the alarms.

Ongoing needs assessments were not required for this family as the family was not receiving ongoing services from the agency.

Technical Assistance

No technical assistance was provided as all OAC requirements were met and documented appropriately on this report.

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Technical Assistance was provided regarding *OAC 5180:2-37-01 (E) PSCA requirements for completing the safety assessment* which requires the agency to record the "Safety Assessment" in Ohio SACWIS within ten working days from the date the report was screened in.

Lucas County Children Services has shown strengths in the areas of interviewing case participants timely, initiating cases timely and interviewing the target child separately from her caregiver, which contributed to thorough assessments of safety. Lucas County Children Services continues to work with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth to assess internal policy and procedure related to Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code as well as to strengthen its practice in safety, permanency and well-being.