

CRITICAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT) INITIAL AND FINAL REPORT H.H.

July 31, 2015

Executive Summary

On October 19, 2014, the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Child Welfare Program was contacted regarding H.H., a 2-year old child, who was found deceased in the family home, and the cause of death was under investigation.

Any time a child known to the Department dies or is seriously injured as a result of abuse or neglect, the Department is committed to evaluating its processes and learning how the child welfare system may be improved in order to keep Oregon's children safer. The Critical Incident Response Team's (CIRT) efforts to identify issues are an important component of agency accountability and improvement when tragedies like this occur.

On October 21, 2014, DHS Director Erinn Kelley-Siel declared a Critical Incidence Response Team (CIRT) be convened.

On October 23, 2014, the initial CIRT meeting was held and a case file review was initiated. On November 14, 2014 the team met a second time and final time to discuss the issues identified in the file review. Prior to completing an initial report, updates from the Medical Examiner determined the fatality was not the result of child abuse or neglect; therefore, Oregon Revised Statue 419B.024 does not apply.

Recommendations

The DHS Director has determined the CIRT process is no longer needed, given that the child's cause of death was due to natural causes. The DHS Director does not exercise discretion to declare a CIRT for any other reason.

Purpose of Critical Incident Response Team Reports

Critical incident reports are used as tools for Department actions when there are incidents of serious injury or death resulting from child abuse or neglect involving a child who has had contact with DHS. The reviews are launched by the Department Director to quickly analyze DHS actions in relation to each child. Results of the reviews are posted on the DHS Web Site. Actions are implemented based on the recommendations of the CIRT Review Team. The ultimate purpose is to review Department practices and recommend improvements. Therefore, information contained in these incident reports includes information specific only to the Department's interaction with the child and family that are the subject of the CIRT Review.