

From: Carolyn Thomas
To: Heber Tippetts; Laray Brown
Date: 3/19/01 4:22PM
Subject: Brock case # 984476

The above case is one I think you need to be aware of. Friday afternoon a red tag was received by this unit alleging sibling at risk on a 2 month old baby whose 2 year old sister died Wednesday from suffocation when a dresser she was climbing on, fell on top of her. This case was assigned to Scott Walker. I requested Lauren Woolboy assist Scott on the case. Lauren Spoke to Detc Mike Mitchell who is the Referant on the case prior to going to the home. Mitchell indicated he would be out of town all of this week for training. He also stated he had not conducted a formal interview with the parents and that would not take place until the week of the 26th. Lauren stated Mitchell requested DCFS make contact with the family and "do the touchy feely social work stuff." Lauren and Scott went to the home and met with the family. They report the parents to be appropriately remorseful and overcome with the death of the child. They also learned additional information that is not contained in the original police report that is pertinent to this investigation but can not be discussed with Mitchell as he is out of town. The infant was at a neighbors when Lauren and Scott arrived. The parents had the baby brought to the home. The baby present clean, healthy and well cared for. Parents are bonded to the infant. The home was clean and there were numerous extended family members present. After the home visit was conducted Lauren called me and told me the particulars of the visit. It was determined at this time that there was no need for removal. The incident itself could be considered non-supervision in the child's death, due to Mother putting her down for a nap and not checking on her for nearly 6 hours, but not the infant for a sibling at risk. Today, Paul Amann called Scott questioning him about the case. Stating someone had called him and said we were removing a sibling at risk. Scott told him we were not removing and faxed the police report to him, and explained the home situation. Of course this set Paul off. Paul called Scott back stating he had spoken to "someone" at the Sheriff's Office who said that Mike Mitchell was going to file Negligent Homicide against the Mother and called DCFS to remove the infant because he was going to be out of town this week. This was not the information he gave Lauren when they spoke Friday on the phone. Paul called again telling Scott this case was still a red tag and to go out and remove. He told Scott to Staff with his supervisor and call him back, after requesting Scott's experience and time with the Division. He also wanted to know why this case wasn't staffed with the AG's on Friday and if it had anyone of the AG's there would have told him to remove for Sibling at Risk. Scott, Lauren and I determined the baby is not at Risk. Therefore we did not feel we needed legal advice. I called Spence Morgan and Patti VanWagoner and staffed this case, they are in agreement the baby is not at risk. I called Paul to spare Scott and Paul said to me, "Your legal counsel is telling you to remove, what are you going to say about that?" I said, I don't agree. It was at this time seeing that we did not agree about the removal I suggested he contact Spence Morgan. Spence agreed during our prior conversation to talk to Paul, if Paul questioned our decision. If you have any question please feel free to contact me, Carolyn Thomas
281-5060 or 652-2168

CC: Patti Vanwagoner; Scott Walker; Spencer Morgan