

Colorado Department of Human Services  
Child Fatality Review  
4/15/08

**A. Identifying Information:**

Child: Rashad Maxey  
DOB: 3/17/2007  
DOD: 12/7/2007 (age 8½ months)

Parents:  
Mother: Roshon Maxey (age 22)  
Father: John Cowser (age 24)

Person Allegedly Responsible for the Fatality:  
Maternal Cousin: Yvette Craddock (age 27)

**B. Involved Counties:**

Arapahoe County Department of Human Services (Arapahoe County DHS)

**C. Introductory Statement:**

The Colorado Department of Human Services Child Fatality Review Team conducted the review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Rashad Maxey. The purpose of the review is to examine existing practices and policies and how they currently affect the child welfare system. These findings should not be construed to link the counties' actions to the actions allegedly perpetrated on this child by his relative.

Statutory authority for this review is in Title 26-1-111, Colorado Revised Statutes. The Department of Human Services supervisory authority is outlined in the areas of child welfare and other programs as specified. It is in the capacity of supervision of the county's administration of child welfare programs that the state has the legal responsibility to require the corrective actions and to conduct follow-up reviews.

**D. Case Summary:**

Arapahoe County DHS received a referral on 7/14/2004 on an incident in the household prior to Rashad's birth and unrelated to the fatality. The referral was assigned and the assessment was unfounded.

Rashad Maxey was born on March 17, 2007. Rashad was regularly observed by extended family and church members with no concerns documented by the Arapahoe County DHS or the Arapahoe County Sheriff's report.

On December 5 and 6, 2007, Rashad spent time in the care of his mother, his mother's cousin, Yvette Craddock (as a babysitter) and visited with his father, John Cowser. On December 6, while in the care of his cousin, Rashad reportedly stopped

breathing. Ms. Craddock placed a 911 emergency call. The Arapahoe County Sheriff and Arapahoe County rescue services responded. Rashad was transported to Aurora Medical Center - South. Medical personnel there stated that Rashad had probably not been breathing for approximately twenty minutes prior to paramedics being called. Rashad was subsequently airlifted to Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital when it was determined that his medical condition warranted more specialized services. The attending physician at PSL stated that, in her opinion, the injuries to Rashad were consistent with intentional trauma to the head, either by shaking or being struck. Surgery was performed at PSL on Rashad to relieve the pressure on the brain. The surgeon estimated the injury to Rashad occurred eight to twenty-four hours prior to the surgery that took place late in the evening on December 6. Rashad did not recover from his injuries and subsequently died.

Yvette Craddock, maternal cousin, was involved as a babysitter on December 6, 2007, the date that Rashad allegedly sustained his injuries. She was arrested for child abuse resulting in death on Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

Arapahoe County DHS finding related to the fatality: The Arapahoe County DHS assessment was founded for fatal physical abuse of Rashad Maxey by Yvette Craddock.

**E. Chronology:**

Referral - 07/14/2004

Arapahoe County DHS received a referral on 7/14/2004 on an incident in the household prior to Rashad's birth and unrelated to the fatality.

Referral - 12/6/2007

Arapahoe County DHS received a referral on 12/6/2007 to a nine-month old emergency patient with injuries consistent with "shaken baby syndrome". Medical personnel determined that the child had sustained brain damage that precluded recovery. The child subsequently died.

**F. Policy Findings - Follow-up Actions Required:**

None