

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

A. Identifying Information:

Child: Adrian Ruybal
DOB: 11/08/2007
DOD: 12/14/2007 (age 1 month)

Parents:
Mother: Leticia Ruybal (age24) (Person allegedly responsible for the fatality)
Father: Fernando Granados (age 23) (not involved)

B. Involved County:

Phillips County Department of Social Services (Phillips County DSS)

C. Introductory Statement:

The Colorado Department of Human Services Child Fatality Review team conducted the review of the circumstances surrounding the death of Adrian Ruybal. The team members included county and state staff, as well as legal, clinical and medical consultants. The purpose of the review is to examine existing practices and policies and how they currently affect the child welfare system in order to explore ways to improve it. These findings should not be construed to link the counties actions to the actions allegedly perpetrated on this child by his parent.

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:

Adrian Ruybal died on December 14, 2007, the autopsy indicated that there was bleeding on the baby's brain. The pathologist's report indicated this was from a subdural hematoma to the brain and hemorrhaging in the retinal nerve sheaths. These injuries were from a closed head injury or non-accidental trauma to the brain. The injuries occurred while Adrian was in the care and custody of his mother, Leticia Ruybal.

Phillips County DSS is working with law enforcement and it is unknown at this time if Leticia Ruybal has been formally interviewed about the fatality. Phillips county DSS is still awaiting a copy of the autopsy report. The investigation is continuing; there have been no criminal charges or case findings.

Phillips County DHS Findings related to the fatality: The Phillips County DHS assessment was founded for fatal neglect - failure to protect and is inconclusive for physical abuse of Adrian Ruybal by Leticia Ruybal.

Phillips County DSS received five referrals over a two and a half year period (2001-2003) concerning Leticia Ruybal's parenting, supervisory neglect and abuse. The 2001 assessment was founded for neglect. The Department offered and provided services. The child protection service (CPS) case was closed in 2004. There was no further CPS involvement from 2004 until the death of Adrain.

E. Chronology:

Referral(s) - 12/14/2007:

During the course of the evening Phillips County DSS received 2 reports regarding five week old Adrian Ruybal who had died earlier in the morning. The autopsy and pathologist indicated there was a subdural hematoma to the brain and hemorrhaging in the retinal nerve sheaths. These injuries were from a closed head injury or non-accidental trauma to the brain. There were also concerns about a possible posterior rib fracture that showed up in a CT scan.

F. Policy Findings - Follow-up Actions Required:

None