

Kerri White (DCYF)
401-408-3087
kerri.white@dcyf.ri.gov

DCYF reports child near fatality

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (March 27th, 2017) – In compliance with Rhode Island General Law §42-72, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is publicly disclosing a recent report of a child near fatality.

A 5 month old male child, from Woonsocket, was admitted to Hasbro Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Intensive Care Unit on March 26th, 2017. The family had no prior contact with DCYF. Kristopher Bernier, the alleged perpetrator in this case, was previously known to the Department. Due to confidentiality laws, we are prohibited from sharing additional information.

Pursuant to the statute, DCYF notified the Office of the Child Advocate of the report. We are prohibited from sharing additional information about this case, but we are investigating allegations of abuse and neglect.

DCYF’s highest priority is the safety and well-being of all children. Rhode Islanders are required by law to report known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to DCYF within 24 hours of becoming aware of such abuse/neglect. Please call 1-800-RI-CHILD to report known or suspected cases of child abuse.

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