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Why are we here?

- ❖ Child Fatalities are incredibly difficult cases
- ❖ It is impossible not to be affected by the work
- ❖ A high level of collaboration is required
- ❖ To learn the process of a Child Fatality investigation

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How do children die?

- Injury deaths (Homicide)
- Unintentional injury deaths
- Deaths related to unsafe sleeping environments/practices
- Suicides
- Natural deaths (such as from childhood cancer)
- Accidental deaths

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Overarching Principle for Child Fatality Investigations

Any unexplained death of a child should be investigated as suspicious until proven otherwise — not the other way around.

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Risk Factors for Child Fatality:

Young or Single Parents	Caregiver's Lack of Parenting Skills
Social Isolation	Caregiver's Substance Use
Caregiver's Mental Health Issues	Poverty
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the home	Child Age: Birth – 3 Years Old
Prior CPS Report	

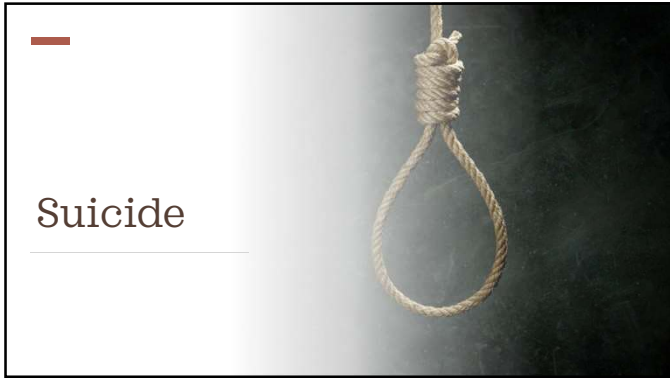
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INJURY DEATHS

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PREVENTION

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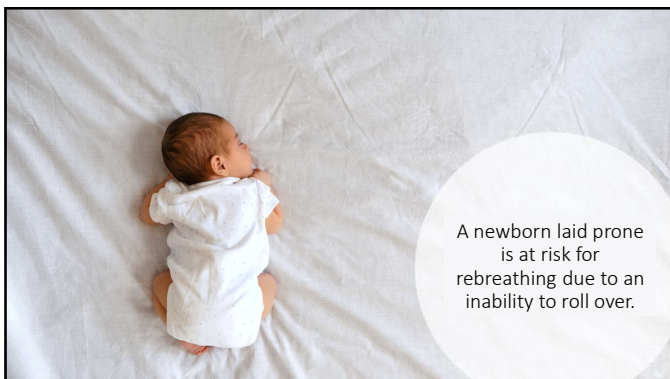
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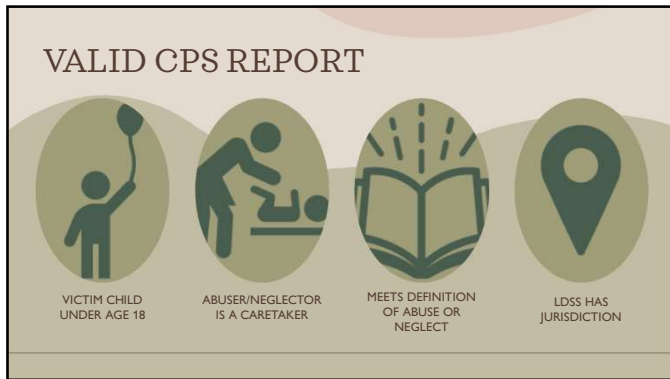
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Definitions:

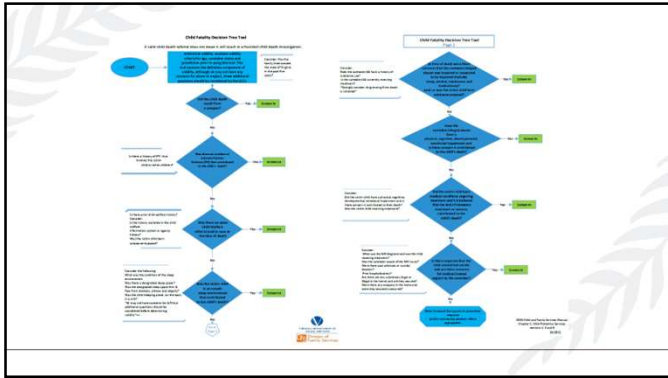
Child Fatality: complaint or report of abuse or neglect involving the death of a child.

Near Fatality: means an act that, as certified by a physician, places the child in serious or critical condition. Serious or critical condition is a life-threatening condition or injury.

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Notifications
in a Child
Fatality

Law Enforcement

Local Commonwealth's
Attorney

District Office of the Chief
Medical Examiner

CPS Regional Practice
Consultant

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CPS Regional Practice Consultants

MONICA HOCKADAY
Central Region
(804) 517-9774
mhockaday@dss.virginia.gov

TAMMY CURL
Northern Region
(540) 216-1688
tammycurl@dss.virginia.gov

TAMMY FRANCISCO
Western Region
(276) 274-0597
tammyfrancisco@dss.virginia.gov

JOHN KING
Piedmont Region
(540) 589-3336
jking@dss.virginia.gov

RENEE RICE
Eastern Region
(757) 793-0240
creene@dss.virginia.gov

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PRELIMINARY CHILD FATALITY / NEAR-FATALITY INFORMATION FORM

Must be completed within 2 working days*

ANNEX D - 1

Officer's / Constable's Name
Rank

For Preliminary Child Fatality / Near-Fatalities, please complete this form and return to the relevant Police Station or the relevant Police Area Office (PAO) as soon as possible, but no later than 2 working days after the incident.

For Preliminary Child Near-Fatalities, please complete this form and return to the relevant Police Station or the relevant Police Area Office (PAO) as soon as possible, but no later than 2 working days after the incident.

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ANNEX D - 1

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[illegible]A graphic with a white diamond in the center. The diamond contains the text "TURNER FAMILY" in a large, black, serif font, and "Handout C-2" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. The background is a light beige color with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent squares in shades of olive green and tan, creating a geometric, quilt-like effect.

TURNER FAMILY

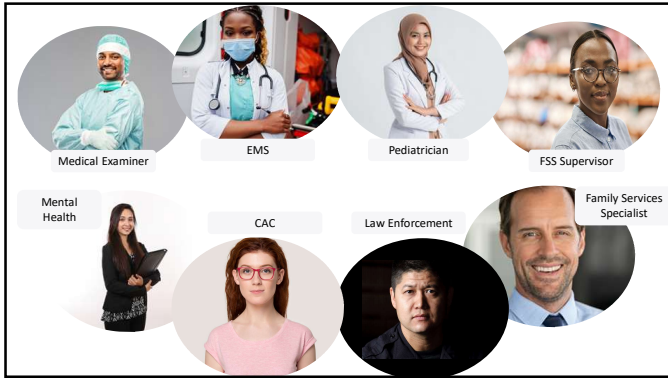
Handout C-2

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COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE

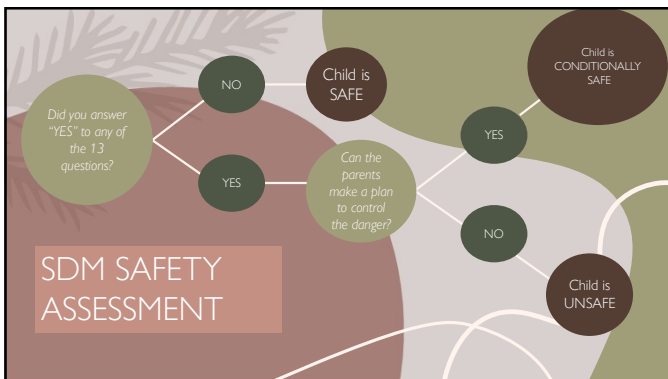
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6.3.2

Assessing Safety
in a Child Fatality

If there are other children in the home, the safety assessment will be either conditionally safe (requires a safety plan) or unsafe (requires a court order) as death of child will be recorded in safety factor #1 on the safety assessment tool. "Caretaker caused serious physical harm to the child and/or made a plausible threat to cause physical harm in the current Investigation/Family Assessment."

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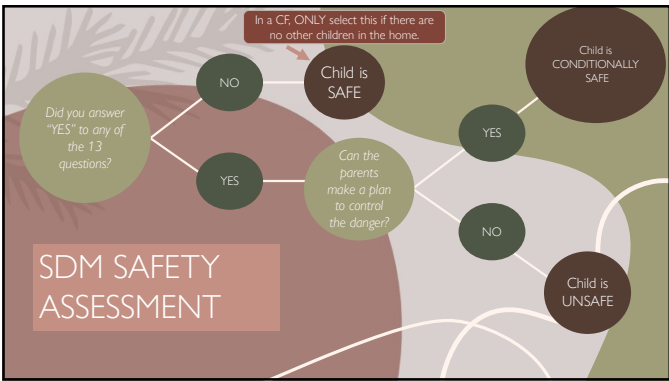
SECTION 1: SAFETY FACTOR IDENTIFICATION

1. Caretaker caused serious physical harm to the child and/or made a plausible threat to cause physical harm in the current Investigation/Family Assessment

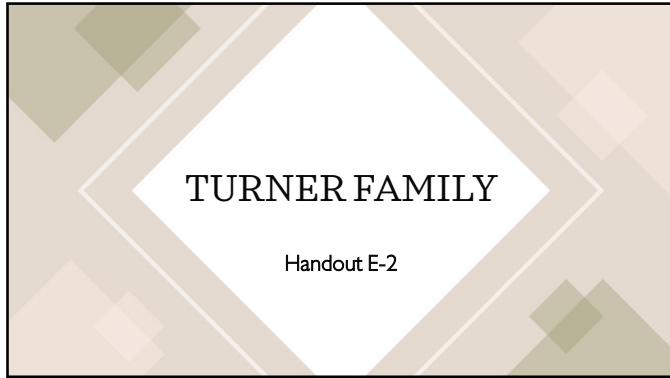
Examples include but are not limited to the following.

- Child fatality or near-fatality, and other children are present in the home.
- Caretaker caused serious injury, other than accidental, such as brain damage, skull or bone fracture, subdural hemorrhage or hematoma, dislocations, sprains, internal injury, poisoning, burns, scalds, or severe cuts. Also include any other physical injury that seriously impairs the health or well-being of the child (e.g., suffocating, shooting, bruises/welts, bite marks, choke marks) and requires medical treatment.
- Caretaker committed act that placed child at risk of significant/serious pain that could result in impairment or loss of bodily function.
- Threat to cause harm or retaliate against child. Threat of action that would result in serious harm; or household member plans to retaliate against child for CPS Investigation/Family Assessment.
- Caretaker has used excessive physical discipline or force or bizarre physical discipline; or caretaker punished child beyond the duration of the child's endurance.

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Transfer of Learning

1. Make a list of each person you need to notify in the event of a Child Fatality, including their name and contact information. Use Handout E-4.
2. Practice your verbiage when approaching a parent about the need to safety plan for a surviving sibling. Consider typing it out, and fine tune it to ensure that you are approaching with empathy and respect, mindful of not retraumatizing the parent, without compromising the safety of the other children in the home.

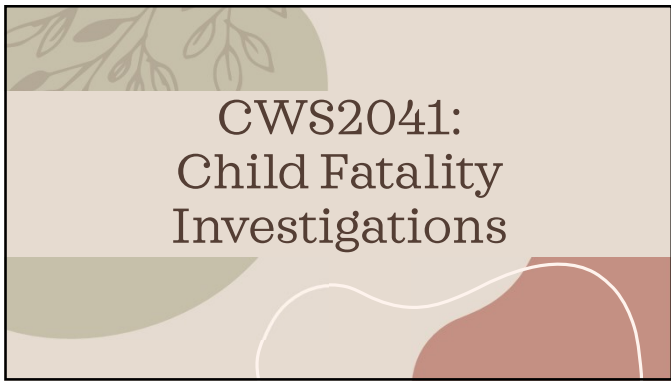


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thank you

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CWS2041: Child Fatality Investigations

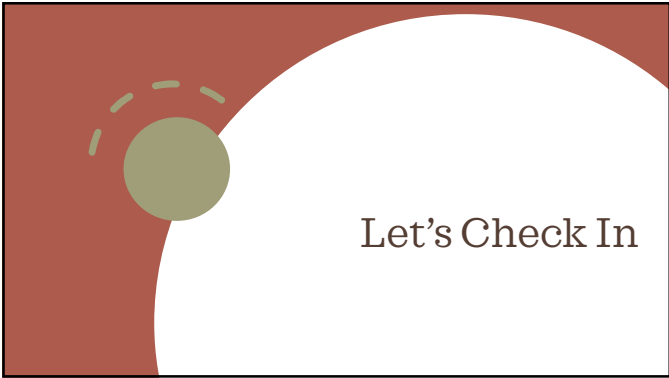
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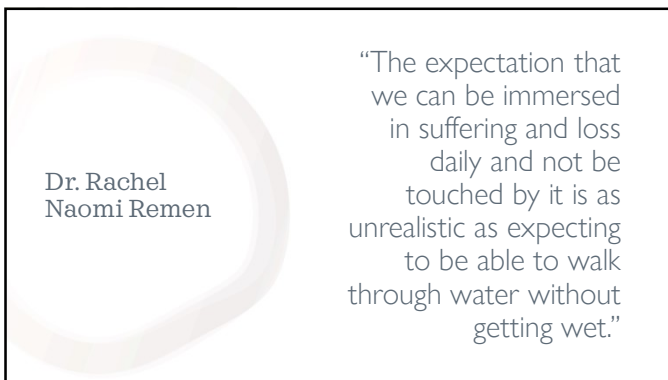
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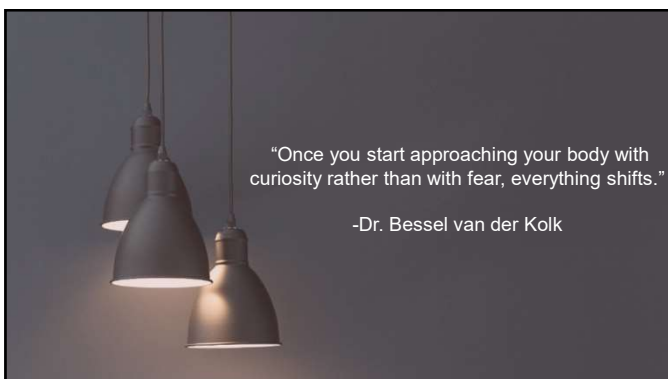
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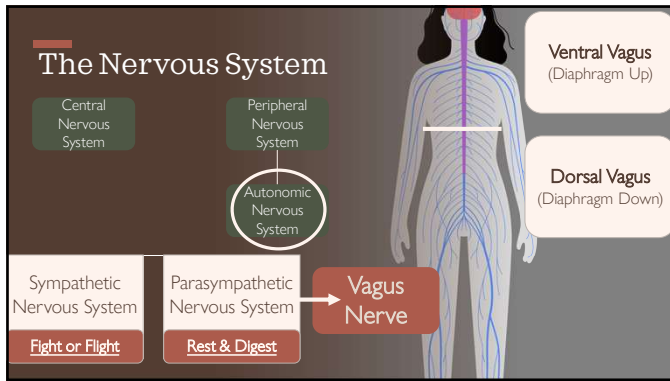
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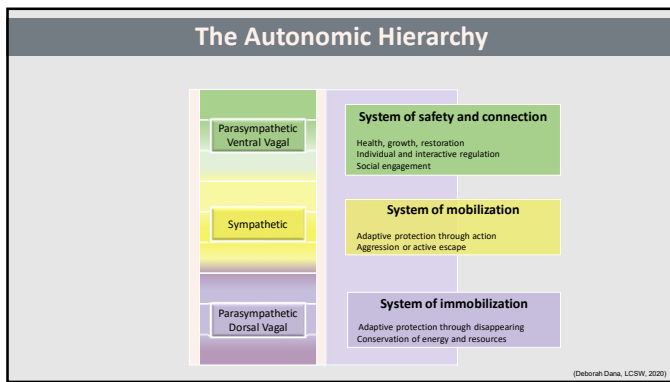
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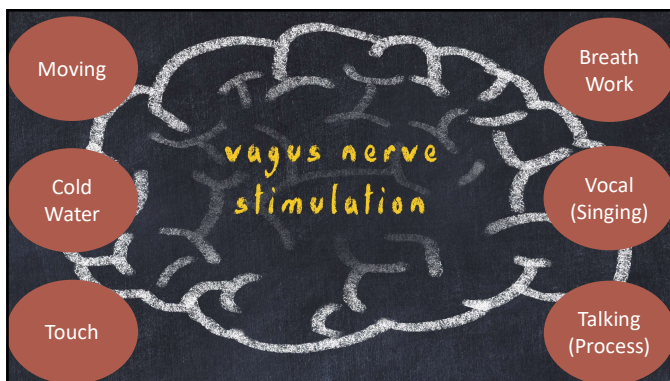
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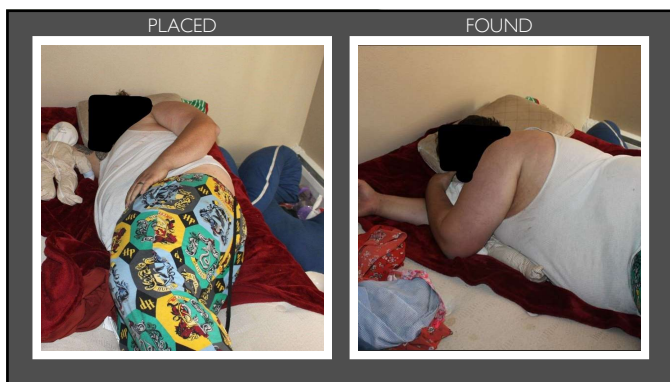
- Autopsy reports
- Scene investigation reports and photos
- Doll reenactment photos and reports
- Prenatal, birth, and health records
- Interviews with family members
- EMS run reports
- Emergency Department and hospital reports
- Prior CPS history on the child, siblings, parents and other caretakers
- 911 Calls
- Detailed Timeline
- Criminal background on parents and other caretakers
- Any info on prior deaths of children in the family



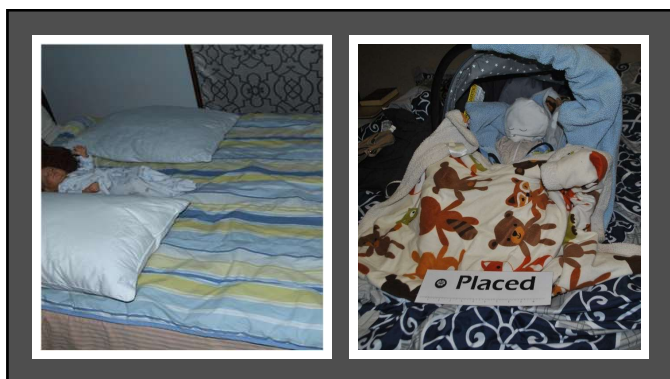
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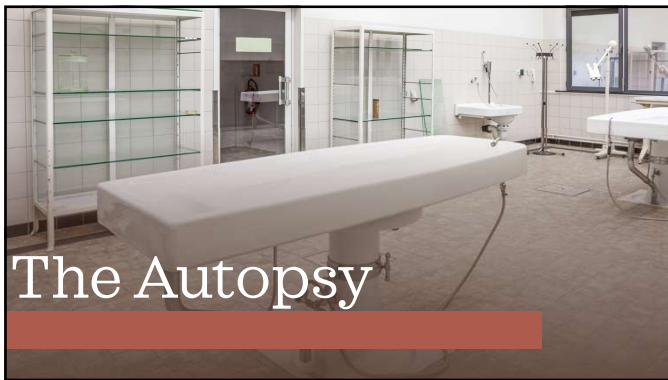
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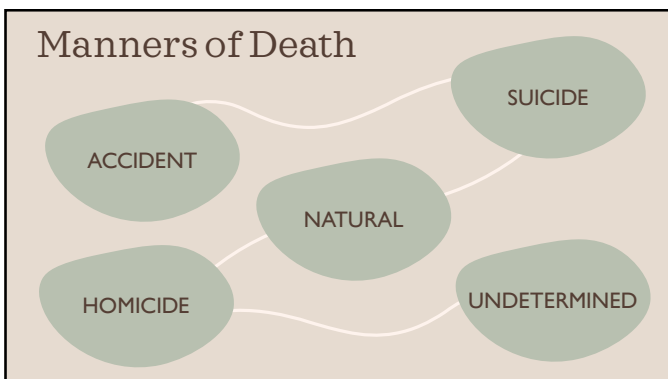
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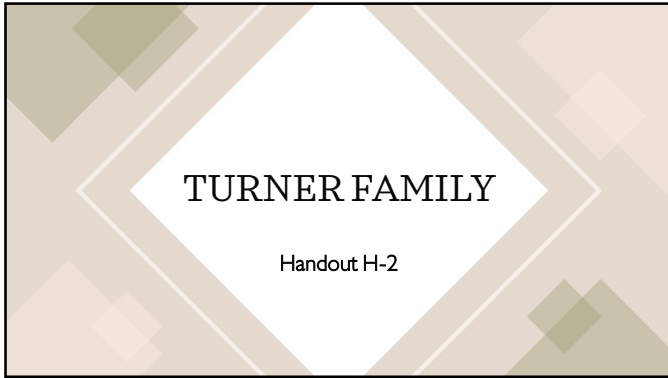
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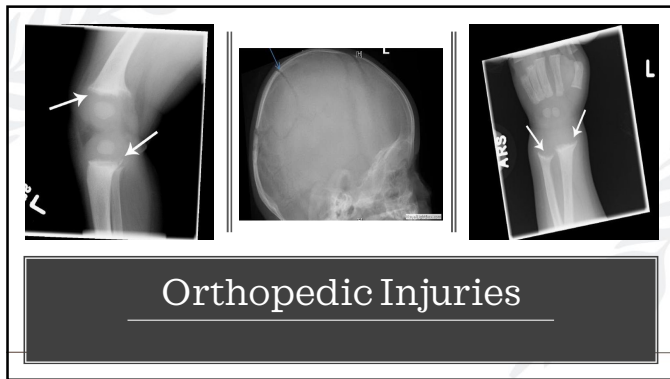
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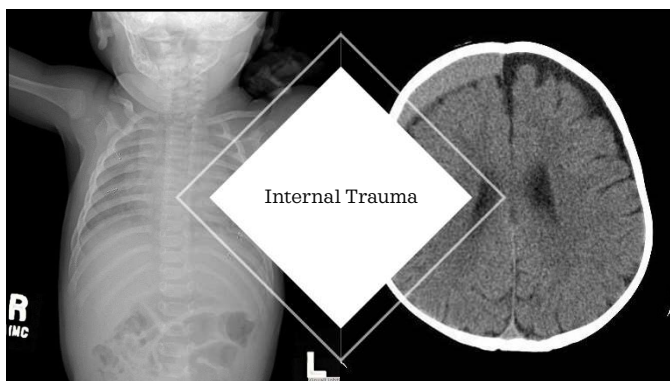
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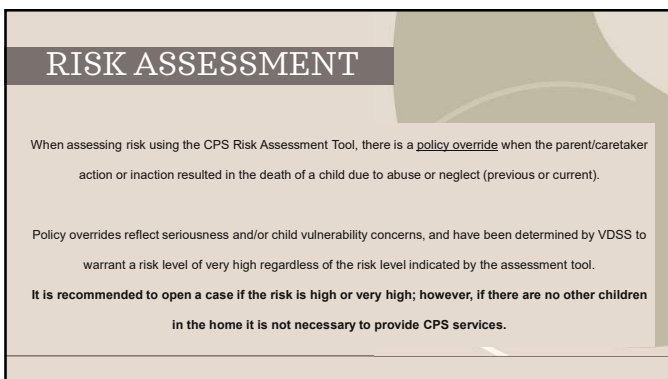
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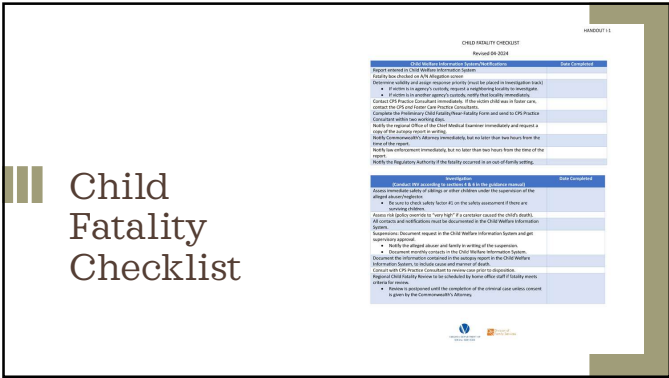
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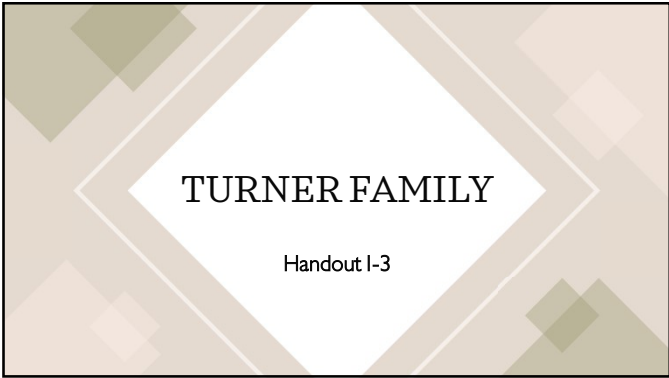
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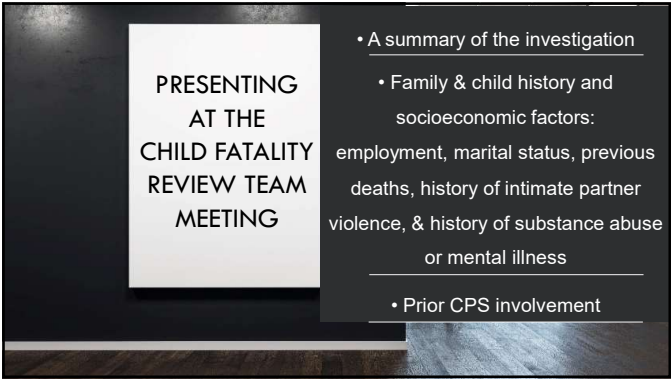
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