



Practice Points

July 20, 2016

Concluding Fatality Reports

The purpose of this Practice Point is to clarify the correct procedures when concluding a report containing the following fatality codes:

- Child fatality (residence in-state)—B1
- Child fatality (residence Out-of-state)—B2
- Household Sibling of Deceased Child—B3

When CANHU screens a report with one of the above codes or when staff add one of these codes to a CA/N report, FACES requires a conclusion for that code on the individual conclusion screen. These codes are currently mapped to physical abuse when FACES generates the CS-21.

Fatality codes are **not** child abuse/neglect codes. A fatality is a *consequence* of the act of abuse or neglect.

In order to conclude a fatality report appropriately, staff **must** unsubstantiate the fatality code and make sure the appropriate code that contributed to the child's death is added to the report.

Example:

A child dies as a result of failure to thrive. The B1 code should be unsubstantiated and the neglect code of failure to thrive should be added with a conclusion of Preponderance of Evidence.

The severity level of 'fatal' should only be used when the victim child(ren) died as a result of the child abuse/neglect allegation for which a preponderance of evidence finding is being made.

Example:

A worker makes a Preponderance of Evidence finding for neglect on a report, during which the victim child died of natural causes. A severity level of 'fatal' would *not* be appropriate because fatality was not a result of the neglect.

A System Change Request has been completed and accepted by the Change Control Board. The above procedures should be utilized when concluding fatality reports until the FACES changes are made.

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