



WRITING A NOTABLE NARRATIVE FOR **FATALITY REVIEW**

Telling Stories to Save Lives

APRIL 2024 OFFICE HOURS

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- Maternal and Child Health Bureau at the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- Division of Reproductive Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- National Network of Public Health Institutes.
- American Academy of Pediatrics.
- Casey Family Programs.



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What to Expect Today

OFFICE HOURS



NOTABLE NARRATIVES FOR CDR AND FIMR

Discover ways to write a helpful, detailed, and informative narrative to tell the story of the decedent and the incident that occurred causing their death.



OPEN DISCUSSION

- Digging into your questions together.
- Upcoming National Center opportunities.

TYPES OF DATA IN THE NFR-CRS

Ways to Enter Data from a Child Death Review



CHECKBOXES



Check all that apply (e.g., type of health insurance).



RADIO BUTTON



Can only select one response, such as Yes, No, or Unknown.



TEXT FIELDS



Short or long, these can be used to provide non-identifiable information not collected elsewhere.

Goal is Prevention

Collect all relevant information to prevent future deaths

- Knowing the full who, what, and why can help drive interventions at the local and national level to prevent death.
- This includes circumstantial information as well as obtaining as much as possible about the social determinants of health impacting the child and their family.



Section O: The Narrative

- The narrative section in the NFR-CRS is the largest text box.
- Purpose is to tell the story of what happened to the child in the incident or situation that led to their death, and any relevant information not captured elsewhere.
- Can also expand on information already captured in the NFR-CRS.



Creating the de-identified case summary



TELLS THE STORY TO THE TEAM

- Blend of clinical/medical information and psychosocial contextual information
- Parental/Family Interview (if conducted): Critical to elevate the voice and experience of the family



DE-IDENTIFICATION IS CRITICAL

Remove names of family, specific providers, businesses, agencies and organizations, actual dates.

HOW TO WRITE A GOOD NARRATIVE

DO:

- Include the who, what, when, where, and why.
- Use information from multiple sources, such as hospital records, law enforcement report, autopsy report, information discussed at a fatality review meeting.
- Include details from a fatality review meeting—i.e., if group could not reach consensus on preventability of death.
- If a SUID/SDY Case Registry recipient, include any additional requested information here.
- Consider drafting your narrative in Word and pasting it into the NFR-CRS to prevent time-out issues.

DON'T:

- Cut and paste directly interviews/reports, especially if there is conflicting information. Can note the conflicting stories and say team could not discern which one was accurate.
- Include anything identifiable, including names, dates, or locations.
- Add unnecessary details unrelated to the incident that caused the death.
- Use stigmatizing or dehumanizing language.

SCENARIO

Mock Case #1

A4: 4

A7: Male

G5: Accident

G6: Drowning

H3c: Pond



A Somewhat Typical Mock Narrative:

4 year old male accidentally drowned in pond near house.

Another Somewhat Typical Mock Narrative:

Jacob Marley, aged 4, wandered outside his home located on 123 1st Street in Pleasantville at 4:30 pm on Monday, May 20th, 2024. His mother was at work at Joja Corp. He was under the care of his caretaker, his uncle Bob Cratchit, who did not notice his absence until 4:52pm, when he began searching along with his wife Emily Cratchit. The police were called at 4:59 pm, and Officer Watson Holmes arrived on-scene at 5:07pm.

Jacob was located floating in a retention pond at 456 2nd Ave in Pleasantville at 5:22pm. Resuscitation began immediately as he was transported to Dickens Hospital. He was pronounced dead at 11:02pm on May 20th, 2024, with a cause of death of drowning.

The pond was the property of Charles Apartment Complex. It is designed to hold water in rain events and at the time of drowning was about 4 feet deep. It had been raining a lot that week. There was no fencing around the pond. Jacob's caretakers said he had been hyper with being cooped up indoors and had always been drawn to water. He was supposed to take swimming lessons this summer. There were no door alarms, and Bob and Emily both did not recall if the front door was locked.

Bob voluntarily submitted to a drug test, results are pending. He stated to Officer Holmes that he had been doing laundry at the time of the incident but only had his back turned a few minutes while Jacob was watching TV. Emily was working upstairs. They are frequent caregivers of the child as his single mother, Belle, had been incarcerated several times.

What is Wrong Here?

Jacob Marley, aged 4, wandered outside his home located on 123 1st Street in Pleasantville at 4:30 pm on Monday, May 20th, 2024. His mother was at work at Joja Corp, so he was under the care of his caretaker, his uncle Bob Cratchit, who did not notice his absence until 4:52pm, when he began searching along with his wife Emily Cratchit. The police were called at 4:59 pm, and Officer Watson Holmes arrived on-scene at 5:07pm.

Jacob was located floating in a retention pond at 456 2nd Ave in Pleasantville at 5:22pm. Resuscitation began immediately as he was transported to Dickens Hospital. He was pronounced dead at 11:02pm 5/20/24 with a cause of death of drowning.

The pond was the property of Charles Apartment Complex. It is designed to hold water in rain events and at the time of drowning was about 4 feet deep. It had been raining a lot that week. There was no fencing around the pond. Jacob's caretakers said he had been hyper with being cooped up indoors and had always been drawn to water. He was supposed to take swimming lessons this summer. There were no door alarms, and Bob and Emily both did not recall if the front door was locked.

Bob voluntarily submitted to a drug test, results are pending. He stated to Officer Holmes that he had been doing laundry at the time of the incident but only had his back turned a few minutes while Jacob was watching TV. Emily was working upstairs. They are frequent caregivers of the child as his single mother, Belle, had been incarcerated several times.

A Helpful Narrative

Decedent, aged 4, wandered outside his home at 4:30 pm. His mother was at work. He was under the care of his uncle, who did not notice his absence until 4:52pm, when he began searching along with his wife. The police were called at 4:59 pm, and the first responder arrived on-scene at 5:07pm.

Child was located floating in a retention pond several blocks away at 5:22pm. Resuscitation began immediately as he was transported to the local hospital. He was pronounced dead at 11:02pm that night with a cause of death of drowning.

The pond was the property of the nearby apartment complex. It is designed to hold water in rain events and at the time of drowning was about 4 feet deep. It had been raining a lot that week. There was no fencing around the pond. Child's caretakers said he had been hyper with being cooped up indoors and had always been drawn to water. He was supposed to take swimming lessons this summer. There were no door alarms, and the caretakers both did not recall if the front door was locked.

Main caregiver voluntarily submitted to a drug test; results are pending. He stated to officer on-scene that he had been doing laundry at the time of the incident but only had his back turned a few minutes while decedent was watching TV. The other adult present was working upstairs. They are frequent caregivers of the child as his single mother had been incarcerated several times.



Barriers

While barrier information was noted in H3j, we have a little more information about the door being locked.



Swimming Ability

We know the child had not yet started swim lessons, an important prevention piece for drowning.



Details

We know the depth of the water, and that it is not just a pond, but a retention pond that can have variable depths.



Life Stressors

We now know about his childbearing parent being a single parent, and her having frequent incarcerations.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Scenario

Mock Case #2

Two siblings perish in the same car crash. All of their information is correctly entered into the NFR-CRS.



A Somewhat Typical Mock Narrative

Child #1

- 2-door sedan was stopped at a red light when rear ended by an SUV travelling at 50 MPH. Decedent vehicle pushed into oncoming traffic where struck by a city bus. All occupants, the child driver and their 14-year old sibling, passed immediately from internal injuries.

Child #2

- See sibling

Is this Identifiable?

Some deaths reach national news and even the simplest of details might make it clear the narrative is talking about that child or that incident. Do your best to still maintain the story of what happened without naming names or identifiers.





OPEN DISCUSSION

How can we help you today?



CONTACT INFORMATION



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