

Legislative Council

Panel on Security and Panel on Welfare Services

Brief Report on the Tin Shui Wai Family Tragedy

Purpose

This paper is to provide a report on the above incident based on available information. To avoid prejudicing the criminal investigation of the case which is being conducted by the Hong Kong Police Force (the Police) and the subsequent possible death inquest, no opinions/conclusions are included.

Brief Summary of Incidents

2. Madam JIN (金) approached the Tin Shui Wai (North) Integrated Family Service Centre (TSW(N)IFSC) of the International Social Service Hong Kong Branch on 18 February 2004 to seek assistance.

3. On 19 February 2004, the case was referred by the TSW(N)IFSC to the Family and Child Protective Services Unit (New Territories West) (FCPSU(NTW)) of the Social Welfare Department (SWD) for investigation of a suspected child sexual abuse incident raised by Madam JIN.

4. On 19 February 2004, temporary accommodation at the Wai On Home for Women (WOHW) of SWD was arranged for Madam JIN and her two daughters. On 20 February 2004, the "Suspected Child Sexual Abuse" reported by Madam JIN was referred to the Police. Joint investigation by the Police and SWD was then conducted. On 24 February 2004, Madam JIN returned home with the daughters but went back to the WOHW on 28 February 2004.

5. Following investigation into the complaint, there was insufficient evidence to support the sexual abuse allegation. A multi-disciplinary case conference (MDCC) was held on 5 March 2004. It was concluded in the MDCC that the case was not established as a child sexual abuse case and the TSW(N)IFSC would provide counselling

service to the family.

6. Madam JIN returned home again with the daughters on 8 March 2004. She and her husband attended an interview jointly conducted by the FCPSU(NTW) and the TSW(N)IFSC on the same day. Subsequently, the TSW(N)IFSC had contacts with the family.

7. On 8 April 2004, a report of “Missing Person” was made by Mr LI to the Police that Madam JIN had been missing from their home since 2 April 2004. On 9 April 2004, when responding to a report made by Madam JIN to the Police, the Police found her at home having a dispute with Mr LI. Madam JIN reported that she had stepped on some broken glass during the dispute. Subsequently, Madam JIN was sent to the Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH). After receiving medical treatment, she was readmitted to the WOHW on 10 April 2004. On 11 April 2004, Madam JIN left the WOHW.

8. On the evening of 11 April 2004, Mr LI made a ‘999’ call to the Police, alleging that Madam JIN killed their two daughters and tried to kill him too. Following police arrival at their residence, Madam JIN and her two daughters were found dead and Mr LI was critically injured. He was unfit for statement-taking since. Investigation on the homicide was first conducted by the Yuen Long District Crime Squad and subsequently taken over by the Regional Crime Unit of the New Territories North Region. Mr LI failed to survive and died on the morning of 23 April 2004.

9. As regards the suggestion that Madam JIN visited the Tin Shui Wai Police Station to seek assistance on the same day prior to the homicide, this information could not be established until 16 April 2004. A separate enquiry has commenced to examine the ways the incidents related to the victimized family had been handled. Since the homicide, the Police have reminded all officers of the need of handling domestic violence cases with care. The Police will examine the existing police procedures for handling domestic violence cases in consultation with other related agencies with a view to identifying any areas that require improvement.

Social Welfare Department/Hong Kong Police Force

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