Girl, 4, falls to her death from Yuen Long flat

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A four-year-old girl died after falling from her bedroom window in the 12th-floor family home in Yuen Long.

Police are investigating the cause of her falling from height, when the window had grills on it.

The girl, surnamed Yu, fell from the window sill of her bedroom in Block 8 at Yoho Midtown on Yuen Lung Street before 6pm yesterday, police said.



Her family immediately notified the building's security guard, surnamed Cheung, to call police at 5.44pm. The girl was found bleeding on the podium of the building.

It was believed she was staying in the bedroom alone.

There was no information on the mother, surnamed Chu, 23, who was believed to be home at the time of the incident.

She was seen with blood on her clothes after rushing down to the podium where she is believed to have hugged her daughter.

Emergency staff arrived at the scene and rushed the girl to Pok Oi Hospital, where she was certified dead. Her distraught parents broke down.

Police said apart from the mother, they were not sure who else was in the flat. The girl's father rushed to the hospital after learning of the accident.

<u>Against Child Abuse director Jessica Ho Oi-chu</u> said it was so sad to hear the news and parents really must pay attention to home safety.

"Parents shouldn't leave children alone in the room, even when they are sleeping," she said.

"When they wake up, their first instinct is to find familiar people."

She said it was also necessary to install window grills and keep them locked because some children might open them.

Falls from height are one of the commonest causes of childhood injury and death in children under five years of age in Hong Kong.

In January this year, a two- year-old girl fell from a ninth floor grill-less window in North Point while playing on a couch.



Her aunt, who was babysitting her, took her eyes off the child to prepare food.

The girl lost her balance while climbing on the couch and fell out of the window.

A government-appointed review panel in 2011 made four recommendations on the prevention of falling-from-height accidents, including public education to remind parents of the possible fatal risk of leaving children unattended and the importance of home-safety measures and devices when small children are present; to seek assistance from reliable child carers; and to give clear instructions to child carers to ensure child safety.

Reference:

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=11&art_id=147784&sid=4 2699126&con_type=3