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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **Board of Education Loses Track of 9-year-old Later Found Murdered**

Today, Special Commissioner of Investigation Edward F. Stancik released a report entitled *An Investigation into the Death of Sabrina Green: How the School System Failed Her*. It details how a series of mistakes, misunderstandings, and oversights by school personnel allowed an abused child to fall through the elaborate safety net erected to protect her.

Nine-year-old Sabrina Green died on November 8, 1997 of “multiple complications of untreated burns of hands with gangrene and blunt impacts to head, torso, and extremities.” Yvette Green, Sabrina’s sister, and Yvette’s boyfriend, Darryl Stephens, were charged with the killing. Sabrina, whose mother had died six years earlier, had lived with Yvette, her legal guardian, and Darryl Stephens for the last thirteen months of her life.

In October 1996, Sabrina first entered the public school system at P.S. 112 in the Bronx. Though it was immediately apparent that she should be in a special education program, a series of bureaucratic mistakes prevented that from occurring. A special education placement did not occur until July 1997.

Beginning in September 1997, Sabrina Green was placed in a program at a “collaborative site” run by the Special Education division but staffed by District 11 personnel. However, she never showed up and little or no effort was made to determine her whereabouts.

Despite the fact that Sabrina Green never appeared at her new school she was placed on the roster, the first in a series of mistakes that caused the attendance tracking system to break down. When this occurred, her old school erroneously believed that a successful transfer had been accomplished and Sabrina was accounted for at the new site. At the new school, there was no attendance plan, no one clearly responsible for tracking missing children, and little adherence to regulations. Thus, no one looked for Sabrina during the final weeks of her life.

The case of Sabrina Green represents the fourth time this office has investigated the death of a public school student from child abuse following a pattern of extensive absences. The widespread public concern generated by the deaths of the three children who died previously—Quentin Magee, Nadine Lockwood, and Justina Morales—as well as the important reforms incorporated by the Board after the Justina Morales investigation, should have resulted in an investigation of Sabrina’s absences. Instead, school authorities mishandled Sabrina’s case almost from the moment she entered the City’s school system. Opportunities to help her were repeatedly lost. Consequently, this report offers recommendations for systemic changes, as well as recommendations for individual disciplinary action.