

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Ra'nesha Jackson

County: Polk

Date of Birth: 09/11/2015

Date of Death: 01/05/2022

Report Number: 2022-003529

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Ra'nesha Jackson	6 years old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	8 months old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	1 year old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	1 year old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	4 years old	Sibling
Tracey Wilson	37 years old	Mother
Craig Jackson	55 years old	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On January 5, 2022, the 6-year-old passed away after being struck by a vehicle after wandering away from the home.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On January 5, 2022, in the early morning hours, the mother and father were in a verbal altercation. The mother denied that the argument turned physical but indicated arguments have turned physical in the past. The mother initially stated that she left the residence to get away from the father to calm down and that he was still at the home when she left. The mother later disclosed at Winter Haven Hospital that the father had left the home to go to a gas station, she knew the children were asleep, so she went on a walk. It is believed that the child heard the mother leave the home and left the home to look for her mother. The child was then seen at the intersection of Highway 92 and State Road 544 in Auburndale. An officer with the Auburndale Police Department saw the child and went to complete a U-turn to tend to the child, but before he could complete the turn to get back to where the child was located, the child ran into the street and was struck by a pick-up truck. Emergency Medical Services responded to the scene and transported the child to Winter Haven Hospital.

On January 5, 2022, Ra'nesha Jackson was pronounced deceased at 6:35 a.m.

The mother tested positive for Cocaine and THC upon arrival at the Emergency Room.

The father completed a drug screen and was negative for all substances.

The Auburndale Police Department investigated the death of Ra'nesha Jackson. (22-32). No arrests were made, nor charges filed.

On January 6, 2022, District 10 Medical Examiner Vera V. Volnikh, M.D., completed an autopsy of Ra'nesha Jackson. ME# 22-10-FA-007.

Cause of Death: Blunt Impact to Head Pedestrian Vs. Motor Vehicle Collision

Manner of Death: Accident

On August 21, 2022, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Inadequate Supervision as to Ra'nesha Jackson, with Tracey Wilson and Craig Jackson as the caregivers responsible.
- Not Substantiated Findings of Substance Misuse – Illicit Drugs as to Ra'nesha, [REDACTED]
- Verified Findings of Household Violence Threatens Child as to Ra'nesha, [REDACTED] with Tracey Wilson and Craig Jackson as the caregivers responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

At the time of the incident, there was no active child welfare involvement.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

Between 2008 and 2021, there have been 11 reports involving the family with a pattern of concerns for substance abuse and domestic violence.

On December 23, 2018, the deceased child and two older siblings (now 9- and 14-years old and not current members of the household) were removed due to verified findings of substance misuse by the mother. The decedent was reunified after 11 days, while the older siblings remained with a relative. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

An April 2021 report was also closed with verified findings of substance exposed newborn to the youngest sibling, and substance misuse-illicit drugs to the remaining four children, when the mother and newborn infant tested positive for marijuana and cocaine. The family was referred to Neighbor to Families, Healthy Start and Tri-County for ongoing services.

Because there was a prior verified report within 12 months of the fatality, a Critical Incident Rapid Response Team conducted a review. Please see that report on the department's child fatality prevention website.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

8/26/22

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

08/26/2022

Date