

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: [REDACTED]

County: Manatee

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Death: 1/15/2022

Report Number: 2022-013797

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	6 months	Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	2 years	Cousin
[REDACTED]	29 years	Mother of Decedent
[REDACTED]	60 years	Grandfather of decedent/father of toddler
[REDACTED]	37 years	Mother of the toddler

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On January 15, 2022, an investigation was received regarding the death of 6-month-old [REDACTED], who was found unresponsive while sharing a bed with her mother, [REDACTED]-29. In addition to the mother and infant, the household included the maternal grandfather, his paramour, and their 2-year-old daughter.

The infant fell asleep in her swing on the evening of January 14, 2022. Per the mother, she changed her daughter's diaper around 11:00 p.m., then brought her into bed and placed her supine. The mother and infant fell asleep on the twin-sized bed a short time later. When the mother awoke, around 6:45 a.m., she discovered the infant unresponsive and immediately alerted the grandfather, who called 911. While awaiting the arrival of first responders, the mother attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Law enforcement and paramedics arrived a short time later; however, the infant could not be revived, and she was pronounced deceased at the home.

A crib and a bassinet were observed in the mother's bedroom, but she advised that it was not uncommon to bedshare with the infant. The infant was ill in the week leading up to her death, and she was evaluated at her pediatrician's office on January 11th and diagnosed with COVID 19. Per the mother, the infant's symptoms had improved, and she appear to be doing well on the 14th, the day prior to the death incident.

All of the adults agreed to complete presumptive drug screens. The mother and grandfather tested positive for marijuana and disclosed regular marijuana use. The grandfather's paramour also admitted that she smoked marijuana, but her results were positive for marijuana and cocaine; she denied cocaine use and attributed the cocaine

results to smoking a marijuana “joint” that must have been laced. Neither of the adults appeared impaired at the onset of the investigation.

An autopsy was conducted by Dr. V. Rao with the District 12 (Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto Counties) Medical Examiner’s Office. The cause of death is listed as asphyxia due to bed sharing with an adult and the manner of death was determined to be an accident.

The Palmetto Police Department conducted the criminal investigation concerning the infant’s death, and their investigation resulted in no charges or arrests.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Child Protective Investigation Division closed their investigation on April 13, 2022, with not substantiated findings of the death, inadequate supervision, and substance misuse-illicit drugs maltreatments.

Other Children in the Family

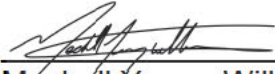
The mother has no other children. Grief counseling and substance services were offered to the mother, and she declined.

Regarding the other child in the home, the investigation resulted in not substantiated findings of substance misuse-illicit drugs. Additionally, while the death investigation was open, a new intake was received with concerns of physical abuse regarding the toddler and concerns for violence between [REDACTED] and his paramour. A new abuse report (2022-106285) was generated to further assess the family and address the new allegations.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There is no child welfare history involving the decedent.

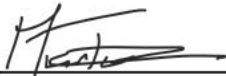
The mother was involved in one investigation in 2017, which alleged that she burned her girlfriend with an iron and punched her in the mouth. The mother could not be located during the investigation and the pair reportedly ended their relationship; the investigation was closed with verified findings of household violence. The mother was also involved in a 2019 investigation which alleged substance use, primarily marijuana and alcohol, by the mother, her father, and his paramour ([REDACTED]). There were also allegations that the mother engaged in an altercation with another household member. That investigation resulted in not substantiated findings surrounding the substance piece and no findings of household violence, and the father and his paramour were referred to diversion services.



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SunCoast Region

7/6/2022

Date



Marla Timmons
Child Protection Director
SunCoast Region

7/6/2022

Date