

Child Fatality Summary C-19 2022

Child's Name: Aaron Grimes

County: St. Lucie

Date of Birth: 02/21/2022

Date of Death: 03/03/2022

Family Composition Chart

Report Number: 2022-067470

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Aaron Grimes	10 days	Decedent
██████████	6 years	Half-sibling
██████████	12 years	Half-sibling
██████████	14 years	Half-sibling
Cynthia Brown	40 years	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On 03/03/2022, a report was received by the Hotline stating that a 10-day-old newborn was found unresponsive in the mother's bed. The mother contacted 911 and resuscitation efforts were initiated by emergency medical services when they arrived at the home. The newborn was transported to Lawnwood Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased at 11:19 am.

On the evening prior to the incident, the mother placed the newborn in his basinet. She placed him on his side in the basinet. The mother then went to sleep in her bed located in the same bedroom. Around 2:00 am, the mother fed the newborn a two-ounce bottle of formula, burped him and placed him back to sleep in the basinet. When the mother woke up around 10:00am, she noticed the newborn was in her bed and her arm was over his face. The newborn was unresponsive. The mother does not recall how the newborn got in her bed. The mother's phone was not working so she went to a neighbor's house and called 911. The mother was unable to perform CPR. Once fire rescue arrived, resuscitation efforts were attempted without success as the infant was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

The mother tested positive for THC, k-2, and methamphetamine on the morning of the incident. The mother has a history of instability, substance abuse and mental health issues.

Dr. Patricia A. Aronica, with the Medical Examiner's Office- District 19, completed an autopsy. The cause of death was determined to be "asphyxia in the setting of co-sleeping," and the manner as an "accident."

Dr. David Walters, the Child Protection Team of the Treasure Coast, completed a medical consultation. There were negative findings for abuse, but positive findings for neglect; secondary to the mother's drug use, likely contributing to not following safe sleep recommendations. The doctor further states that the mother was likely under the influence of

drugs that clearly affected her memory and likely affected her sleep and arousability. The report also states that this infant had risk factors for sudden unexplained infant death based on the mother's maternal drug use, co-sleeping, sleeping on his side, and the mother's prenatal cigarette smoking.

The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction over this case. The criminal investigation was closed as an accidental death and no criminal charges were filed.

Based on the information indicated above, the report was closed with "verified" findings for the inadequate supervision, substance misuse illicit drugs and death maltreatments.

Other Children in the Family

At the time of the incident the mother had a total of five children: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The decedent is not involved in any prior reports. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Signature Page:

Tausha Schreiber

Tausha Schreiber, Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

September 21, 2023
Date



Denise Foster, Region Program Manager

September 25, 2023
Date