

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Hades Matthews

County: Pinellas

Date of Birth: 1/3/2022

Date of Death: 3/19/2022

Report Number: 2022-084629

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Hades Matthews	2 months	Deceased
[REDACTED]	2 months	Twin Sibling
[REDACTED]	1 year	Sibling
[REDACTED]	4 years	Sibling
[REDACTED]	5 years	Sibling
Jennifer Lindenschmidt	25 years	Mother
John Matthews	34 years	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On March 19, 2022, an investigation was received regarding the death of this 2-month-old infant, who was found unresponsive while she and four siblings were sharing a bed with their parents. The parents and their five children historically lived a transient lifestyle, and they were sharing a room at a friend's home at the time of the death incident.

According to the family, they all shared one bedroom and slept together in a bunk bed. The top bunk did not have the mattress in place, so all seven family members shared the full-sized bottom mattress on the evening of March 18th. The mother advised that she woke, fed the twins, and burped them around 4:30 a.m. with no incident; however, when she woke a short time later, she discovered the one twin unresponsive. The parents then contacted 911 and attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation. When paramedics arrived on scene they transported the infant to HCA Florida Northside Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased a short time after arriving at the hospital.

There were noted concerns regarding the inside and outside of the family's residence. The exterior of the home was littered with camping equipment, electronics, multiple prescription bottles containing medication, tools, aluminum cans, silverware, and an extensive amount of additional clutter and debris. There were several pets, to include dogs, cats, lizards, and a rabbit, being kept inside the residence; several soiled animal cages were observed around the home, accompanied by the pungent odor of animal feces and urine. Dirty diapers, rotting food, clothing, garbage, roach traps, and other

clutter was spread around the home. Additionally, a glass pipe and other drug paraphernalia were found in the family's bedroom; several of the items were collected and tested for substances, and their results were positive for methamphetamine.

The mother denied drug use and she advised that outside of marijuana, she was unaware of the father using illicit substances. She provided a urine sample for testing and her drug screen results were negative for any substances. The father advised that he was a recreational marijuana smoker with a history of using methamphetamine (ending in December 2021), but he denied that he was actively using any substances other than marijuana. Although the father declined a drug screen, he displayed erratic behaviors when initially encountered and there were concerns that he was under the influence of substances. Additionally, several sources articulated concerns surrounding the father using methamphetamine for at least the last five years. Concerns were also expressed regarding the parents' pattern of living in and exposing the children to unsafe environments.

Dr. S. Ignacio with the District Six (Pinellas and Pasco Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the infant. The cause of death is listed as methamphetamine toxicity and the manner of death could not be determined.

The Pinellas Park Police Department conducted the criminal investigation concerning the infant's death, and during the criminal case the father admitted that he used methamphetamine a few hours prior to the infant being discovered unresponsive. However, he claimed that he did not use the substance at the family's residence. In March 2023 the father was arrested on a charge of aggravated manslaughter of a child; he remains incarcerated at the time of this report writing and his judicial case is ongoing.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Child Protective Investigations Division closed their investigation with the following findings:

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Finding	Caregiver Responsible
Hades Matthews	Death	Verified	Father/Mother
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Father/Mother
	Substance Misuse – Illicit Drugs	Verified	Father
	Environmental Hazards	Verified	Mother/Father
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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

Other Children in the Family

All the siblings were visibly dirty, and the older children were observed running around barefoot, climbing on the items outside the home, and walking around the dumpster, while the parents took no action. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Due to concerns for the parents' diminished protective capacities the siblings were removed, and they were ultimately placed with a relative. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The children will be provided any necessary services though the judicial case.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There is no child welfare history involving the decedent and her twin sibling. [REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Mechell Young-Williams
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
SunCoast Region

1/30/2024

Date



Robert Wilson
Operations & Management Consultant Manager
SunCoast Region

01-30-2024

Date