

Florida Department of Children and Families Child Fatality Summary C-15 2022

Child's Name: Ares DeSouza Rivera

County: Palm Beach

Date of Birth: 05/02/2022

Date of Death: 05/02/2022

Family Composition Chart

Report Number: 2022-137193

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Ares DeSouza Rivera	1 day	Decedent
Bianca DeSouza	19 years	Mother
Niclose DeSouza	39 years	Maternal grandmother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On 05/02/2022, the Department received a report stating that a newly born baby had died. The newborn was found unresponsive in the mother's bed.

In the hours leading up to the incident, between 9am and 4pm (while the grandmother was at work), the mother felt "cramps," birthed the newborn at home in her bed. The newborn cried. The mother placed the newborn on the bed and went to take a shower. Next, the mother went into the grandmother's bedroom and took a nap. The grandmother arrived home and had no idea that the baby was delivered. The grandmother went into the mother's bedroom because she noticed the window blinds were messed up; that's when she saw the newborn on the mother's bed, and she called 911 around 4:45pm. The grandmother described the newborn as warm, but fire rescue found no pulse. Prior to the grandmother arriving home, around 4:00pm, the grandmother and mother had a phone conversation and the mother told the grandmother she was taking a shower.

The mother has a history of mental health issues [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

While the mother was pregnant, she was thinking about giving the baby up for adoption.

The mother's husband and father of the baby had been deployed to South Korea to serve in the U.S Military, so he wasn't in the home in weeks leading up to the incident.

The mother tested positive for THC.

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's office completed an autopsy. The cause of death was determined to be "Asphyxia" and the manner as "Homicide." The report states, "Per the mother's sworn statements, the child was born alive and was crying for some time after birth. The child was born while the mother was wearing boxer shorts. The mother stated that the child came out through the right pants leg, and the baby was his left side. This statement is

consistent with the autopsy findings of a well-demarcated line across the neonate's back, likely from traumatic chest compression by clothing, with abundant petechiae of the skin and soft tissues superior to this level. The reported birth details and probable entrapment position also places the neonate's face against the mother's thigh. She reported the baby stopped crying, but does not remember how or when. The mother did not attempt to move herself, remove the clothing, reposition the baby during and after the birth process, pick up, comfort, seek medical attention, or otherwise care for the child. A neonate is fully dependent for care and survival, and per her statements, the mother did not attempt to create an environment where the neonate could breathe without restriction during the birth process, and failed to ensure his well being after being born. The autopsy revealed a term infant with no evidence of natural disease to otherwise explain his demise. As such, the cause of death is asphyxia and the manner of death is homicide."

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction over this case. The mother was arrested for Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child and Neglect of a Child Causing Great Bodily Harm on 12/08/2023. The criminal case remained open at the time the DCF investigation was closed.

Based on the information indicated above, the report was closed with "Verified" findings for the death, inadequate supervision and medical neglect maltreatments.

Other Children in the Family

There are no other children in the home.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family-

There are no prior reports on the decedent. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Signature Page:

Tausha Schreiber

Tausha Schreiber, Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

09/15/2025

Date



Denise Foster, Region Program Manager

09/15/2025

Date