

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Jacklyn Schwingel

County: Marion

Date of Birth: 06/11/2019

Date of Death: 05/03/2022

Report Number: 2022-137246

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Jacklyn Schwingel	2 years old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	5 years old	Sibling
Travis Thompson	24 years old	Mother's Former Paramour
Kristin Gagne	24 years old	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On May 3, 2022, the 2-year-old child passed away after being found unresponsive on the floor after reportedly falling from the bed while the mother's former paramour was in the restroom.

According to the mother and the Marion County Sheriff's Office, the following information was provided.

According to the mother, she and her former paramour (hereafter referred to simply as the paramour) had been friends and had a relationship outside of their dating relationship. The mother has known her paramour for five to six years and they had dated off and on. Most recently, they have been together since October 2021, and they broke up approximately two weeks prior to the incident.

The night prior to the incident, the paramour convinced the mother to come help him get his car working because part of the reason for their breakup was him not having a job and/or contributing. He told her he had a job interview and needed to get his car working to get to the interview. The mother has experience from working on cars growing up with her father, so she took the children to the paramour's home so she could help him work on his car. The older child's bus stop is right by the paramour's place of residence, so they ended up staying the night and the paramour agreed to take the sibling to his bus stop the next morning. The paramour also agreed to watch the 2-year-old that day, as it was said she likes to meet her brother as he gets off the bus in the afternoons, and the mother had to go to work. The mother advised that the paramour had watched the children several times while they were involved in a relationship and there were no issues then, so she did not have any reason to be concerned.

On May 3, 2022, the mother left for work between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. The 2-year-old was in the care of the paramour and the sibling was in school. The mother stated that she texts the paramour throughout the day to ask how things are going when she leaves the children with him. The mother texted at approximately 10:00 a.m., and he called her and said she needed to get to his home because something was not right with the child. She immediately left work and arrived at the home at 10:22 a.m. When she arrived, her paramour was holding the child and she had very shallow breathing. They put her in the car and started driving to the hospital. A few minutes into the drive the child stopped breathing and they called 911 at 10:27 a.m. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to the home. The child was transported to Advent Health Waterman in Lake County.

According to the paramour, his stomach began to hurt, and he went to the bathroom. He had been in there for approximately 10 minutes when he heard a thud. He looked through a hole in the door where the doorknob used to be and saw the child on the ground. He came out of the bathroom, saw her on the floor, and heard her gurgling. He rolled her on her back, started CPR, and she had shallow breaths. He attempted to call the mother twice, got hold of her on the third attempt and told her to come home. He tried yelling for neighbors and continued CPR until the mother arrived. He stated he did not call 911 because they have poor cell service in the area, and he was unable to get through.

On May 3, 2022, Jacklyn Schwingel was pronounced deceased at 2:01 p.m.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) investigated the death of Jacklyn Schwingel (22-008966). MCSO obtained a search warrant and found a pipe with THC in it, and an empty baggie in the paramour's wallet. They also found a converted shotgun loaded next to the bed, and a loaded handgun in the camper.

The paramour consented to a drug screen and was positive for THC. The mother consented to a drug screen and was negative.

On September 8, 2022, Travis Thompson was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder while Engaged in Aggravated Child Abuse.

The autopsy report was received on October 10, 2022, and indicated District 5 Medical Examiner Tracey S. Corey, M.D., completed an autopsy of Jacklyn Schwingel on May 4, 2022. ME# 22-05-01068.

Cause of Death: Death in this 2-year-old toddler girl, Jacklyn Angela Schwingel is due to traumatic injuries of the torso, with a disarticulation of the lumbar spine and associated retroperitoneal hematoma.

Manner of Death: Homicide

Autopsy Findings

1. Traumatic injuries of the torso with disarticulation of lumbar spine at L2-3 with:
 - a. Complete transection of lumbar spine.
 - b. Epidural hemorrhage of spinal cord.
 - c. Larger retroperitoneal hematoma
 - d. Agonal hemoglobin concentration 2/8 gm/dl.
2. Focal scalp hair loss,
3. Expanded postmortem blood toxicology screens.
 - a. Blood topiramate concentration 1100 ng/mL
 - b. All other screens negative for major drugs of abuse, over the counter medications, and prescription medications.
4. Postmortem metabolic screens negative for tested abnormalities.

On November 14, 2022, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Physical Injury, and Internal Injuries as to Jacklyn Schwingel, with Travis Thompson as the caregiver responsible.
- Not Substantiated Findings of Inadequate Supervision as to Jacklyn Schwingel

Other Children in the Family:

The sibling was deemed to be safe and remains in the mother's care. Grief counseling information was provided to the family.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

[REDACTED]



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

11/18/22
Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

11/19/2022
Date