

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Logan Bixler

County: Lake

Date of Birth: 11/28/2021

Date of Death: 05/19/2022

Report Number: 2022-156075

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Logan Bixler	5 months old	Child Victim
██████████	3 years old	Half-Sibling by mother
Jaden Colwell	24 years old	Mother
John Bixler	37 years old	Father of Logan
Timothy Gunter	32 years old	Father of ██████████

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On May 19, 2022, the 5-month-old passed away after being found unresponsive by the mother while co-sleeping with the child.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On May 18, 2022, the mother took the child to the hospital due to an allergic reaction to egg and strawberry exposure. The mother first gave the child Benadryl at approximately 9:00 a.m. and waited approximately an hour; however, there no change and the child appeared to have a fever. The mother then took the child to Advent Health Deland, he was diagnosed with Anaphylaxis, the child was given Epinephrine, and they were there for approximately 11 hours. They arrived home at 9:30 p.m. and the mother allowed the child to remain asleep in the car seat until approximately 10:00 p.m. The mother fed the child a bottle of milk and put him to sleep in the pack n' play at 10:30 p.m.

On May 19, 2022, at approximately 2:00 a.m., the child began to cry so the mother picked the child up, placed the child beside her in the bed, and they went back to sleep. The mother woke up at approximately 9:00 a.m. and realized the child's color was off. The mother instructed the 3-year-old to go to the neighbor's home to avoid seeing the child. The mother attempted to call 911; however, she was having a difficult time and the neighbor assisted calling 911 at 9:29 a.m. The neighbor is a Certified Nursing Assistant and performed CPR. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to the home. EMS transported the child to Advent Health DeLand.

On May 19, 2022, Logan Bixler was pronounced deceased at 11:07 a.m.

Law Enforcement found methamphetamines in the home above the washer and dryer. The mother advised she was unaware of the drugs being in the home and indicated that it must have belonged to the decedent's father prior to her telling him he was no longer welcome in the home. The mother was consistent that the father did not reside in the home but could not remember the last time he was there prior to his arrest in March.

The purported father of the 3-year-old is in substance abuse treatment and was aware that the mother has been using drugs, but he did not make any attempts at intervention. In addition, the 3-year-old disclosed domestic violence between the mother and the decedent's father.

On May 19, 2022, the mother consented to a drug screen and was negative. On July 21, 2022, the mother consented to a drug screen and was positive for methamphetamine.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) investigated the death of Logan Bixler (22-0051731). The LCSO has filed Aggravated Child Abuse charges with the State Attorney's Office as to the mother in the death of the child.

The autopsy report was received on September 27, 2022, and indicated District 5 Medical Examiner Heather M. Gage, M.D., completed an autopsy of Logan Bixler on May 20, 2022. ME# 22-1205.

Cause of Death: Methamphetamine Toxicity

Manner of Death: Accident

Contributing Conditions: Asphyxia due to Co-Sleeping with Parent on Adult Bed, Rhinovirus/Enterovirus Infection

Autopsy Findings:

1. Co-sleeping with parent on adult bed; found unresponsive face-down on pillow
2. Treated for allergic reaction at hospital day prior to death
 - A. Tryptase level of blood sample taken at time of examination with normal range
 - B. No anatomic evidence of acute allergic reaction at time of examination
3. Nasopharyngeal swab positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus by PCR
4. Pleural, pericardial, and rare thymic petechiae
5. Patent foramen ovale
6. No evidence of significant injury that would have caused or contributed to death

On October 3, 2022, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Substance Misuse – Illicit Drugs, and Inadequate Supervision as to Logan Bixler, with Jaden Colwell as the caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Failure to Protect as to [REDACTED] with Timothy Gunter as the caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Substance Misuse – Illicit Drugs as to [REDACTED], with Jaden Colwell as the caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Household Violence Threatens Child as to [REDACTED], with Jaden Colwell and John Bixler as the caregivers responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

After the receipt of the death investigation the mother agreed to a safety plan, due to the unknown nature of the child's death, and the sibling was with the great aunt in Orange City. [REDACTED]

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The March 22, 2022, investigation involved concerns for inadequate supervision and substance misuse illicit drugs. On March 25, 2022, no present danger was found. The children were determined to be safe, the mother was working with services, and the investigation was closed on May 4, 2022.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

10/21/22

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

10/21/2022

Date