

## Bass Fatality Summary

**Child's Name:** Kacey Bass

**County:** Escambia

**Date of Birth:** 7/16/2020

**Date of Death:** 6/26/2022

**Report Number:** 2022-194006

### Family Composition Chart

| Name             | Age at Time of the Incident | Relationship with Deceased Child |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kacey Bass       | 1 year old                  | Deceased child                   |
| ██████████       | 2 years old                 | Sibling                          |
| ██████████       | 2 years old                 | Sibling                          |
| ██████████       | 3 years old                 | Half Sibling                     |
| ██████████       | 7 years old                 | Boyfriend's Child                |
| Sakerria Smith   | 23 years old                | Mother                           |
| Roderick Randell | 45 years old                | Mother's Boyfriend               |

### Circumstances Surrounding Death

The mother and her children do not reside where the incident occurred, but had been visiting there with the mother's boyfriend and his child for several days. The mother's oldest child was not at the home when the incident occurred.

On June 26, 2022, the three youngest children were in the bedroom with the boyfriend's 7-year-old son. The boyfriend's son advised that he goes over to his father's house sometimes. He stated that his father was not home and had gone to the store. He said the lady that his dad likes was asleep on the couch in the adjoining room. The three girls were asleep on the bed, and he was on the bed watching television. He took a chair, pulled it over to the closet, and climbed on it so that he could reach the top shelf. He stated that his dad always tells him not to touch anything on the shelf. He stated that a gun was on the top shelf next to a baggie with white stuff in it. He described the baggie as being a small sandwich type Ziploc. After he got the gun, he was messing around with it and pulled the trigger. After he fired the gun, he went in and tried to wake the lady up to tell her that the baby was bleeding. He said he kept screaming and shaking her. He stated that there had been a lot of people in and out of the house that day and both adults were smoking cigarettes and "blunts". There was one shot fired from the gun; the bullet hit one of the the 2-year-olds in the chest then exited and struck the 1-year-old. He stated he had previously seen the children's mother look at the gun.

The mother stated when she was awakened, she saw that one of the twins had blood on her shirt, and she believed her nose was bleeding. She took the twin to the bathroom and was cleaning her up.

Neighbors flagged down the maintenance worker and told him they heard a gunshot. He called 911 and went to check on the occupants of the rooms. When he got to the room occupied by the mother, he asked if everything was ok, and she said it was just a nosebleed and he observed the mother wiping the baby's face. He cancelled the 911 call. A neighbor went into the room and saw the 2-year-old child had a wound on her chest and back. The neighbor grabbed a blanket, wrapped it around the child and took the child to the hospital.

The mother's boyfriend was called to return home by a neighbor. The boyfriend's son came out of the room and was hysterical. He said he didn't mean to do it. He told the maintenance worker there was a "hole". The maintenance worker went back into the room and observed the gunshot wound to the (now) deceased victim who was on the bed. He called 911 a second time.

The mother's boyfriend was not there when the incident occurred, but the mother stated he came back before law enforcement arrived. The boyfriend went into the rooms, took some things, and left. After law enforcement arrived the boyfriend returned. The surveillance video from the motel showed the boyfriend running to multiple locations with a white bag in his hand.

The child was declared deceased at the home.

A hair follicle test was completed on the twins; the results were positive for cocaine and THC.

The law enforcement investigation was closed with the mother being charged with three counts of child neglect. The charges against the mother's boyfriend included: tampering with evidence, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, failing to store or leave a firearm in a required manner, and culpable negligence by storing a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor.

Medical Examiner autopsy findings: Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of the Head;  
Manner of Death: Homicide.

The department closed the investigation with verified findings of death, environmental hazards, inadequate supervision, and substance misuse-illicit drugs.

### **Other Children in the Family**

Present danger was identified as to the three surviving siblings, and they were sheltered with family members. The mother was arrested and was issued a no contact order with the children. The boyfriend's child resides with his mother.

## Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The department was last involved with the family in December 2021 regarding allegations of inadequate supervision and a 2019 report involved allegations of household threatens child.

Rebecca Siebert  
Rebecca Siebert  
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

2/20/2022  
Date

Regina Pleas  
Regina Pleas  
NWR Family Safety Program Manager

2/22/2023  
Date