

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Harper Dieterle

County: Brevard

Date of Birth: 01/28/2022

Date of Death: 07/09/2022

Report Number: 2022-207200

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Harper Dieterle	5 months old	Child Victim
Robin Janney	29 years old	Mother
Daniel Dieterle	29 years old	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On July 10, 2022, a report was received indicating the 5-month-old infant passed away after suffering a drowning incident in the bathtub, when the mother had stepped away to take a phone call on July 9, 2022.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On July 9, 2022, the mother was bathing the infant when she received a phone call. The mother left the infant unattended for approximately three minutes and when she came back the mother found the infant unresponsive in the water. The mother called 911 at 9:14 p.m. Dispatch attempted to give the mother instructions on how to conduct CPR, but she was unable to comply due to her emotional state. The mother could be heard patting the infant on the back. Law Enforcement arrived at 9:15 p.m. The mother brought the infant outside to Law Enforcement; the infant was naked and had fluid coming from her nostrils. Law Enforcement performed CPR until Emergency Medical Services arrived at 9:20 p.m. and transported the infant to Rockledge Regional Medical Center.

On July 9, 2022, Harper Dieterle was pronounced deceased at 10:25 p.m.

[REDACTED]

The Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) investigated the death of Harper Dieterle (2022-00242504). One of the BCSO officers who responded to the home indicated that the mother was frantically running around looking for her cell phone. The officer followed her into the home, and while doing so observed the bathtub filled with water up to about an inch from the top. Charges have been filed with the State Attorney's Office.

The autopsy report was received on March 13, 2023, and indicated District 18 Medical Examiner Saijid S. Qaiser, M.D., completed the autopsy for Harper Dieterle on July 11, 2022. ME# 22-18-0601.

Cause of Death: Drowning

Manner of Death: Accident

Autopsy Findings:

1. Negative toxicology, blood and brain specimens.
2. Negative coronavirus (COVID-19) test.
3. Drowning-related findings:
 - 3.1 Severe brain and lung edema
 - 3.2 Brain, mild dusky-brown gray matter (anoxic changes), but severe edema, serial sectioning
 - 3.3 No gross wrinkles, palms and soles
 - 3.4 Moderate to severe edema and anoxic changes of neuronal and neuroglial cells, microscopic.
4. No gross trauma, externally or internally.
5. No gross congenital, metabolic or infectious disease.
6. Above 50th percentile, body length and weight.

Notanda: As per investigations, deceased allegedly was found floating on the top of the water in a filled-up bathtub. Mother alleged deceased (infant) was left alone, sitting in an empty tub, but tap of tub was running for about 10 minutes, while she got engaged in talking on the phone. When returned, after 10 minutes, she found the deceased in the status, described above. Deceased was pronounced in emergency room (ER) of a local hospital, after 40 minutes of failed resuscitation.

On April 14, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Inadequate Supervision as to Harper Dieterle, with Robin Janney as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

There are no other children 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

The family does not have any prior abuse report history.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

4/20/23

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

4/20/23

Date