

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Damien Bednarik

County: Bay

Date of Birth: 12/02/2021

Date of Death: 07/19/2022

Report Number: 2022-217600

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Damien Bednarik	7 months old	Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	4 years old	Sibling
Jason Bednarik	34 years old	Father
Angel Boggs	34 years old	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On July 20, 2022, a report was received regarding the death of this 7-month-old infant who was found unresponsive while co-sleeping in the bed with his father. There were also concerns reported regarding the parents' drug use as well as drug paraphernalia being found in the home. The household consisted of the 7-month-old infant, his 4-year-old sibling and the parents.

Per the family, on July 19, 2022, the father fed the infant applesauce, and then rocked the infant to sleep. Around 5:30 to 6:00pm the father placed the infant in the parents' bed with a pillow on each side of the infant to sleep. The father covered the infant up with a sheet. The father then laid down in the bed with the infant and took a nap. The father awoke when the mother returned home from an errand. The father found the infant unresponsive rolled up in the sheet. The mother grabbed the infant, and got into the car with the person who had driven her home from the errand. The mother called 911, and the driver pulled over at a local fire station. A fireman on duty performed CPR, and the infant was transported by ambulance to Gulf Coast Medical Center where he was later declared deceased.

While law enforcement was at the home investigating the incident, the 4-year-old was found playing with a pipe that had been used to smoke marijuana. Also found in the home was a cup that had marijuana in it located on the night stand by the bed.

Drug screens were requested of both parents; however, both parents refused to provide a urinalysis.

[REDACTED]

Dr. P. Thirakul with the District 14 Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the infant. The cause of death was listed as suffocation and fentanyl intoxication. The manner of death was listed as an accident.

Both the mother and father denied knowledge of how the infant had been exposed to Fentanyl.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the parents had tested positive for Fentanyl a week prior to the infant's death.

Springfield Police Department conducted the criminal investigation. There were no charges filed against the parents regarding the infant's death.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, the Child Protective Investigation Unit closed their investigation with verified findings of death, substance misuse-illicit drugs, inadequate supervision and environmental hazards concerning the infant and verified findings of substance misuse-illicit drugs, inadequate supervision and environmental hazards concerning the older sibling.

Other Children in the Family

Following the death of the infant, the 4-year-old sibling was seen by the Child Protection Team for a

[REDACTED]

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[Redacted text block]

Jennifer Renfro

Jennifer Renfro
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

11/3/2023
Date

Regina Pleas

Regina Pleas
NWR Family Safety Program Manager

11/3/2023
Date