

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Mallory Lassiter

County: Hillsborough

Date of Birth: 12/27/2020

Date of Death: 9/13/2022

Report Number: 2022-279597

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Mallory Lassiter	1 year	Decedent
[REDACTED]	2 years	Sibling
Kolby Lassiter	24 years	Father
Gabrielle Akers	25 years	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On September 14, 2022, an investigation was received regarding the death of 1-year-old Mallory Lassiter and the serious injury of her 2-year-old sibling, after the children and their father were involved in a vehicle accident.

The father took the children for a ride in his pickup truck on the evening of September 13, 2022. While in transit the younger child sat unrestrained in the back seat and the older child sat on the father's lap. At some point the father lost control of the vehicle causing a single vehicle accident and all of the occupants were ejected. Law enforcement and paramedics were called to the scene of the accident and the 1-year-old was subsequently pronounced deceased. The sibling and the father sustained multiple injuries which required additional medical attention; the sibling was airlifted to Tampa General Hospital and the father was transported by ambulance to Lakeland Regional Hospital.

Although the mother was at work when the incident occurred, she agreed to provide a urine sample for a presumptive drug screen. Her results were positive for marijuana and negative for all other substances, and she advised that she is an occasional marijuana user. She was not noted to appear impaired during her interviews.

The Child Protective Investigator was able to interview the father approximately one week after the incident occurred. Per the father, the accident occurred while he was driving to the local strawberry field, which was less than a mile from the family's home. He advised that he normally smoked marijuana several times per week and drank whiskey one to two times each week. He denied that he used any illicit substances on the day of the incident; however, he did consume roughly five to six shots of whiskey

sometime between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the incident, but he said he did not feel impaired prior to driving with the children. He agreed to a presumptive drug screen and his results were positive for marijuana and oxycodone (the latter of which was prescribed following the car accident).

Dr. D. Mcennan with the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner’s Office conducted the autopsy on the toddler. The cause of death was determined as blunt impact to head and neck with skull fractures, brain laceration, and atlanto-occipital dislocation, and the manner of death is listed as an accident.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office conducted the criminal investigation. A sample of the father’s blood was taken for testing after the vehicle accident occurred and his blood alcohol content measured approximately twice the legal limit. He was subsequently arrested on September 16, 2022, and charged with aggravated manslaughter of a child, DUI with serious bodily injury, DUI manslaughter, and DUI with property damage or personal injury. The criminal court case is ongoing at the time of this report writing.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Child Protective Investigations Division closed their investigation on November 8, 2022, with the following findings:

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Finding	Caregiver Responsible
Mallory Lassiter	Death	Verified	Father
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Father
	Substance Misuse – Alcohol	Verified	Father
	Substance Misuse – Illicit drugs	Not Substantiated	N/A
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Other Children in the Family

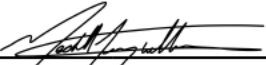
During the car accident the sibling sustained serious injuries, to include multiple fractures and injuries to his kidney and liver, and he remained hospitalized for nearly one month prior to discharge from the hospital. The Child Protection Team completed a medical records review concerning the sibling and opined positive findings of neglect.

Documentation describes the mother as an appropriate caregiver who is able to meet the ongoing needs of the sibling. Therefore, when the sibling was removed from the father, he remained in the mother’s care. [REDACTED]



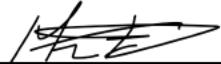
Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family





Mechell Young-Williams
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
SunCoast Region

12/28/2022
Date



Marla Timmons
Director of Child Protection
SunCoast Region

12/28/2022
Date