

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Janice Serrano

County: Orange

Date of Birth: 03/12/2018

Date of Death: 11/04/2022

Report Number: 2022-338933

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Janice Serrano	4 years old	Child Victim (Decedent)
[REDACTED]	4 years old	Twin Sibling
[REDACTED]	6 years old	Sibling
Shavell Jones	23 years old	Alleged Perpetrator/Maternal Aunt Asha's Paramour
Sharice Nesmith	26 years old	Mother
Asha Baker	29 years old	Maternal Aunt (Deceased)
Shantay Nesmith	28 years old	Maternal Aunt (Deceased)
Gail Baker	49 years old	Maternal Grandmother (Deceased)
Reginal Pierre	43 years old	Mother's Paramour

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On November 4, 2022, the 4-year-old child, two maternal aunts and the maternal grandmother were all found deceased when law enforcement responded to the home in response to an apparent murder/attempted suicide.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On November 3, 2022, the child went to sleep in the maternal aunt's bed (the aunt whose paramour is the alleged perpetrator) where she had been sleeping for the last couple days due to not feeling well. The child's twin sibling and 6-year-old sibling went to sleep in the living room.

On November 4, 2022, at approximately midnight, the two maternal aunts and the maternal grandmother went out to a club. Sometime between 2:00 to 3:00 a.m. the three of them came home. The woman had been drinking; however, no one seemed to be intoxicated.

The mother and her paramour woke up because they smelled something good and realized the maternal aunt was cooking a hot pocket. The maternal aunt went back into her bedroom, and they heard her and her paramour arguing. It was indicated that she

was breaking up with him. The aunt did not realize the child was still in the room. The maternal aunt and the paramour were moving the paramour's things from the house to the car.

The mother and her paramour stated this was the aunt's paramour's first relationship. He had not exhibited any jealous behaviors before, the aunt gives him a lot of attention, and he was used to all of the attention being on him. That night he kept going in and out of the room appearing upset.

While the paramour was taking trips to the car the maternal aunt went back to the kitchen to get her hot pocket. The mother went to the bathroom and her paramour was in the living room. At some point, the maternal aunt and her paramour both went back into their bedroom. The mother's paramour then heard two gun shots in a row and then one more shot before the maternal aunt's paramour walked into the living room area, he pointed the gun at the grandmother and shot her in the head. The mother's paramour ran. The maternal aunt's paramour was not saying anything while shooting. He then shot the other maternal aunt and the mother in the bathroom. The maternal aunt's paramour then shot himself. The mother's paramour heard her screaming his name, he ran to the bathroom and saw a lot of blood. The paramour helped the mother up, they went out the back door of the home, got through a tear in the fence that was damaged by the hurricane, and the paramour tried two to three neighbors' homes. No one answered their doors. They then walked to another neighbor down the street that was always friendly, and his wife called 911 at 3:59 a.m. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to the home and the victims and perpetrator were transported to the hospital.

On November 4, 2022, Janice Serrano was pronounced deceased at 4:55 a.m.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Janice Serrano (22-67588). On November 4, 2022, Shavell Jones was arrested and charged with one count of First Degree Murder with a Firearm, four counts of Second Degree Murder with a Firearm, and one count of Attempted First Degree Murder with a Firearm.

The autopsy report was received on January 24, 2023, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., completed an autopsy of Janice Serrano on November 5, 2022. ME# 22-09-02145.

Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of Head

Manner of Death: Homicide

Final Anatomic Diagnoses

- I. Gunshot wound of head
 - a. Intermediate range
 - b. Perforation of skull and brain

- c. Subarachnoid hemorrhage
- d. No projectile recovered at autopsy

Conclusion: *In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body, and review of the available medical records, histology and the toxicology report, it is my opinion that Janice Serrano, a 4-year-old girl, died as a result of a gunshot wound of the head. The manner of death is classified as homicide.*

On January 31, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Physical Injury as to Janice Serrano, with Shavell Jones as the caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Household Violence Threatens Child as to Janice Serrano, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], with Shavell Jones as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

The siblings were deemed to be safe and remain in the mother's custody. Grief counseling information was provided to the family.

A follow up was completed with the mother and her paramour at a relative's home. The mother consented to a drug screen and tested positive for Oxycodone and negative for all other substances. The mother was prescribed Oxycodone for the gunshot wound. The mother agreed to counseling services for the children.



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

2/3/23

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

02/03/2023

Date