

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Elizabeth Mayes

County: Polk

Date of Birth: 04/23/2005

Date of Death: 10/29/2022

Report Number: 2022-344388

Family Composition Chart

| Name | Age at Time of the Incident | Relationship with Deceased Child |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Elizabeth Mayes | 17 years old | Child Victim |
| David Stanley | 36 years old | Legal Father at the time of the incident in 2005 |
| Diana Smith | 33 years old | Biological Mother |
| Connie Mayes | 55 years old | Adoptive Mother |

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On November 8, 2022, a report was received indicating the 17-year-old child passed away on October 29, 2022, as a result of physical injuries suffered in August 2005.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On August 3, 2005, the child was admitted to the Emergency Room because she was reportedly choking on milk. The child was observed to have petechia in both eyes and bruising on her abdomen. The doctors determined that the baby had been shaken, had internal bleeding on the brain, five healing rib fractures, retinal hemorrhaging, and detached retinas.

In an interview with law enforcement in 2005 the child's biological mother admitted that she knew that the father had been shaking and being rough with the baby and she had failed to intervene. The child was sheltered from the mother and father and [REDACTED]

On August 19, 2005, David Stanley was arrested and charged with Aggravated Child Abuse by Great Bodily Harm Permanent Disability (x2), False Imprisonment, and Neglect of a Child with Great Bodily Harm. On November 7, 2008, David Stanley was sentenced to 15 years in prison and was incarcerated from November 24, 2008, until May 1, 2018. He is on Probation through April 30, 2028.

In September 2022, the child was admitted to Lakeland Regional Medical Center because of difficulty breathing. The child was diagnosed with cerebral palsy secondary to anoxic brain injury, shaken baby syndrome, and she was a quadriplegic. On October 2, 2022, the child was admitted to Good Shepard Hospice for chronic respiratory failure with hypothermia.

On October 29, 2022, Elizabeth Mayes was pronounced deceased at 10:59 p.m.

The death certificate was received on November 22, 2022, and indicated District 10 Medical Examiner Stephen J. Nelson, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Elizabeth Mayes on November 17, 2022. ME# 22-10-ME-297.

Cause of Death: Complications of Multiple Injuries Battery

Manner of Death: Homicide

On January 24, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Physical Injury as to Elizabeth Mayes, with David Stanley as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

The family has been offered grief counseling on numerous occasions; however, refused services. The mother stated that they are receiving grief counseling through Good Shepard.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The child has the one prior abuse report from 2005 that was closed with verified findings for physical injury, beatings, internal injuries, bruises/welts, excessive corporal punishment, skull/brain/spinal injury, with David Stanley as the caregiver responsible; verified findings of failure to protect, with Diana Smith as the caregiver responsible; and some indicators of substance exposed child. The child has one prior in 2009 that was closed with no indicators of environmental hazards.





Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

1/30/23

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

01/30/2023

Date