

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Mark Smith

County: Orange

Date of Birth: 12/16/2020

Date of Death: 11/15/2022

Report Number: 2022-351634

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Mark Smith	1 year old	Child Victim
Carlisha Anderson	25 years old	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On November 15, 2022, the 1-year-old passed away after the mother called 911 and stated she had suffocated the child. Law Enforcement arrived to find the mother stabbing herself multiple times. They resided at In-Town Suites.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On November 15, 2022, the mother woke up at noon. The mother changed the child's diaper, made him a bottle and turned on the television. Between 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. the mother and child were in the room, played, and watched television. At approximately 3:00 p.m. the mother got ready for work. The father arrived and picked her up at approximately 3:30 p.m. The mother arrived at work at exactly 4:00 p.m. and the father and baby drove away. The mother reported she began feeling ill, nauseous, and claustrophobic. The mother requested to leave work and contacted the father to pick her up. The father arrived shortly after, and the child was asleep in the car. When they got home the father laid the child down on the bed. The mother was still feeling nauseous, and she laid down. The father left the home. The mother was not sure where the father went, but recalled he had to do something. The mother started pacing around the room and eventually got in the bed next to the child. The child crawled over to the mother after she laid down. The mother felt the child on her back as he was crawling up to her. The mother recalled both her and the child tossing and turning in the bed. The mother abruptly got up and the child was in the middle of the pillows, facing them (the pillows). The mother indicated the child was wheezing. The mother gave the child "mouth to mouth", because he was looking like he could not breathe. She then started pumping his stomach and chest. The mother reported a beige color liquid came out of the child's nose and mouth when she attempted CPR. The mother believes the liquid was beige due to the child having baby food and cereal. The mother stated that she thought the child had suffocated. She believed the position she was laying in caused

her to press down on the baby and her position may have caused the pillows to push on the child's face. When the mother realized the child was not breathing, she called 911. She told the dispatcher that her child was not breathing, and she thought she killed him. While she was on the phone, she "lost it", because the child was not breathing anymore. She placed the phone on the bed next to the child, went to the kitchen, grabbed a knife, and stabbed herself in the gut. Law Enforcement responded to the room and the officer asked her to remove the knife. She did not say anything and kept holding the knife. The mother then stabbed herself in the right leg and tried to slice her neck. The officers tasered her twice, took the knife away, hand cuffed her, and then placed her on the stretcher. The mother stated that she wanted to hurt herself because the child was dead. The mother was transported to Orlando Regional Medical Center, and the child were transported to Arnold Palmer Hospital.

On November 15, 2022, Mark Smith was pronounced deceased at 10:20 p.m.

The mother consented to a drug screen on November 18, 2022, the mother tested positive for Oxycodone and Fentanyl. The father consented to a drug screen and tested positive for alcohol.

The Orlando Police Department investigated the death of Mark Smith (2021-400903). On December 8, 2022, Carlisha Anderson was arrested and charged with Second Degree Murder, Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child, Aggravated Child Neglect, Aggravated Assault on a Firefighter, and Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer.

The autopsy report was received on April 17, 2023, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., completed an autopsy of Mark Smith on November 16, 2022. ME# 22-09-02232.

Cause of Death: Homicidal Asphyxiation

Manner of Death: Homicide

Autopsy Findings

- I. Homicidal asphyxiation
 - a. Periorbital petechial hemorrhage
 - b. Conjunctival petechial hemorrhage, bilateral
 - c. Oral musca petechial hemorrhage
 - d. Laryngeal mucosa with petechial hemorrhage

Conclusion: In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body, and review of the available medical records, toxicology report, and other ancillary studies, it is my opinion that Mark Smith, a 1-year-old male infant, died as the result of a homicidal asphyxiation. The manner of death is classified as homicide.

On May 2, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Asphyxiation as to Mark Smith, with the mother Carlisha Anderson as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

Grief counseling was offered and declined.

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

5/11/13

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

5/11/13

Date