

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Josiah Ramirez

County: Hillsborough

Date of Birth: 11/18/2022

Date of Death: 4/21/2023

Report Number: 2023-124919

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Josiah Ramirez	5 months	Deceased
[REDACTED]	5 months	Twin Sibling
[REDACTED]	15 months	Sibling
Haley Barclay	26 years	Mother
Victor Ramirez Ramirez	31 years	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An initial investigation was received on April 17, 2023, concerning the hospitalization of this 5-month-old infant, who sustained multiple non-accidental injuries while in the mother's care. He succumbed to his injuries four days later. The household included the infant and his twin sibling, their older brother, and the parents.

According to the mother's initial statement, the infant rolled off the bed on April 14, 2023, and hit his head against the wall, sustaining a bump on his head. She reportedly did not see the incident as she stepped outside of the home to rinse out some bottles, and when she returned inside, the infant was laying face down on the floor. So she picked him up and treated the bump on his head with ice. The mother could not provide a detailed timeline but advised that on the 16th, she noticed that the infant seemed ill, as he was lethargic and his breathing was "off," so she contacted her neighbor, who drove them to South Bay Hospital, in Hillsborough County. Medical professionals assessed the infant and determined that he had sustained a subdural hematoma, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and a skull fracture, all of which were believed to be nonaccidental injuries. Due to the severity of his condition, the infant was transported to All Children's Hospital in Pinellas County; however, his prognosis was poor, and he was not expected to survive. Despite ongoing medical intervention, the infant passed away on April 21, 2023.

The father advised that the mother made him aware the infant fell off the bed on April 14th. He observed the infant throwing up constantly from the 14th to the 16th and noticed

that the infant's behavior was abnormal, as he was quiet and not smiling as he usually did. Additionally, the father picked up the infant sometime on the 16th and noticed that the infant's body had "no strength" and his head would just fall to the side, but medical attention was not sought until the mother brought the infant to the hospital later that day.

Prior to the infant's passing, he was evaluated by the Child Protection Team (CPT), who advised that the injuries the infant sustained were the result of physical abuse and abusive head trauma. The siblings were also evaluated, and CPT opined indeterminate findings of physical abuse concerning the older sibling and positive findings of physical abuse for the twin sibling, as he was a non-mobile infant with multiple older posterior rib fractures.

A presumptive drug screen was conducted on the mother and her results were negative for any substances. The father provided a urine sample for a presumptive drug screen and his results were positive for alcohol; he did not appear impaired but advised that he began drinking at 6:00 a.m. on the day the infant was brought to the hospital.

In addition to the above-mentioned concerns, sources familiar with the family advised that there were multiple incidents where the mother failed to properly supervise the children, as she would leave them home alone, while the father was at work. Additionally, there were concerns regarding the father's alcohol consumption, as he reportedly drank throughout the day and used the substance as a coping mechanism.

Dr. N. Palma District 6 (Pinellas and Pasco Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the infant. The cause of death is listed as complications of abusive head trauma and the manner of death as homicide (assaulted by other persons).

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office conducted the criminal investigation concerning the infant's death and during one of the mother's interviews, she admitted that she shook the infant on two separate occasions (April 12th and 13th), as she was frustrated with his crying and fussing. She also advised that he began vomiting and appearing ill after the second incident of shaking. The mother was arrested and charged with two counts of child abuse with great bodily harm, one count of child neglect with great bodily harm, and second-degree murder. A charge of aggravated child abuse was later added in relation to the injuries the twin sibling had also sustained. She was ultimately sentenced to a 25-year prison term to be followed by 15 years of probation.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered, Child Protective Investigations in Hillsborough County closed their investigation with the following findings:

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Findings	Caregiver Responsible
Decedent	Death	Verified	Mother
	Physical Injury	Verified	Mother
	Internal Injuries	Verified	Mother
	Bone Fracture	Verified	Mother
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Mother
	Medical Neglect	Verified	Mother/Father
	Substance Misuse – Alcohol	Verified	Father
	Threatened Harm	Verified	Father
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Other Children in the Family


[REDACTED]

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There are three prior investigations involving the family, with the first occurring in March 2022, the second in August 2022, and the most recent in March 2023. The history reflects a pattern of allegations surrounding concerns for the mother's inability to meet the basic needs of her young children. The first two investigations closed with no findings of any maltreatments and service needs were declined in both cases.

The most recent investigation was received on March 11, 2023, and it surrounded allegations that the mother was diluting the infants' formula due to not having enough, and it also alleged that the children were unkept. The mother advised that she was initially giving the infants less formula than recommended (2 ½ scoops instead of 3) and the father confirmed that they were initially diluting the formula as they originally did not know the proper formula to water ratio. The investigation noted that the children were

observed healthy and within the norms for weight. A hope referral was submitted; however, the family declined interest. This investigation was closed with not substantiated findings of environmental hazards.



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Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
SunCoast Region

4/8/2025

Date

Robert W. Wilson

Robert Wilson
Operations & Management Consultant Manager
SunCoast Region

04-08-2025

Date