

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Anthony Rouse

County: Polk

Date of Birth: 09/14/2016

Date of Death: 04/24/2023

Report Number: 2023-132814

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Anthony Rouse	6 years old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	11 months old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	1 year old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	3 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	4 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	7 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	10 years old	Sibling
Alize Seymore	25 years old	Mother
Tre Seymore	27 years old	Father/Stepfather

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On April 25, 2023, a report was received indicating the 6-year-old child passed away on April 24, 2023, after injuries received on April 22, 2023.

According to law enforcement, the following information was provided.

On April 22, 2023, the family woke up approximately 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., the mother stayed in bed, and the stepfather went downstairs with children and made breakfast. They returned to the room, and all ate together. The 6-year-old child got in trouble for stealing his sister's food and ended up defecating and urinating on himself. His mother sent him to get a bath and she heard the bathroom door slam closed. She reported that she went to the bathroom and asked him if he was taking a bath. The father reported that he was in bed on TikTok and does not know if the mother left the room or came back in at any point. He was not paying attention. The mother reported that the stepfather checked on the child approximately 20 minutes later and he found the bathroom door locked. The father got inside the bathroom, found feces all over the ground and the child was face down in the tub with his head away from the faucet and his feet were propped up. The tub was about half full and there was feces in the tub. The father pulled the child out of the tub, drained the tub and started CPR while the mother called 911 at 3:31 p.m. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to the home. The child was observed with multiple scratches, scrapes bruises, healed scars, and what appeared to be a cigarette burn on his hip. The child

was transported to Winter Haven Hospital, where they were able to get a pulse back, and the child was life-flighted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa.

On April 24, 2023, Anthony Rouse was pronounced deceased at 8:19 p.m.

The family recently moved to Polk County to a 5-bedroom home with one on the first floor and 4 on the second floor. The home was observed to have a dog cage in the garage that was used for the decedent. The cage had the divider towards the back of the cage, where the decedent was kept, with a majority of the space being by the cage door. The parents had a room with a bed on the second floor. The two girls had a room with toddler beds that were completely full of clothes and other items. There were two twin beds in the open area of the second floor. One bedroom had a mattress on the floor with nothing else in the room. The last bedroom had two sets of bunk beds with clothes that were soiled on top and underneath. The children's bedroom doorknob was reversed so the parents could lock the door from the outside. The children's rooms were observed with urine and feces filled clothes and all the clothes appeared to be soiled and in piles on the bed and the closet. The home had a foul smell of vomit, feces, and urine. The lights in the children's bedroom and bathroom did not work and the father admitted to turning the breaker off during the week so they could not use the electricity in the rooms. There was food observed in the kitchen, however, there was a large gun safe in the garage and when it was opened; there were snacks, candy and what the parents described as the good food for them to have and not the children.

The mother consented to a drug screen and was negative. The father/stepfather consented to a drug screen and was positive for alcohol.

The Child Protection Team had positive findings of history only abuse, burns-object-abuse, physical injury-asphyxiation-abuse, inadequate supervision - caretaker absent-neglect, mental injury- confinement/bizarre punishment - abuse, threatened harm-domestic violence, Death - other child dead abuse/ neglect-threatened harm, substance abuse-substance- misuse, and failure to protect - from inflicted injury-neglect.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Anthony Rouse (2023-17121).

Law enforcement and the Child Protective Investigations Supervisor obtained photos, videos, and text messages from the mother, father's, and children's cell phones that depict the ongoing abuse. The videos and images show the decedent in a dog cage and the text messages discuss the torment the child suffered and how much the parents despised him.

On May 18, 2023, the parents were arrested in Alachua County (Gainesville) and charged with 2 Counts of Knowing Abuse Child without Bodily Harm, 2 Counts of Agg Child Abuse, 6 Charges Cause Child to be Delinquent/Dependent/ Needy, 1 count of Tampering with a Witness. On August 31, 2023, the investigation went to Grand Jury and both parents were indicted on Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child and First-Degree Murder.

The death certificate was received on September 5, 2023, and indicated District 13 Medical Examiner David F. Garavan, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Anthony Rouse on May 8, 2023. ME# 23-13-03779.

Cause of Death: Anoxic Encephalopathy Complications of Submersion in Bathtub

Other Significant Conditions: Chronic Child Abuse

Manner of Death: Homicide

On September 29, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death and Inadequate Supervision as to Anthony Rouse, with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.
- Verified Findings of Asphyxiation as to Anthony [REDACTED] with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.
- Verified Findings of Bizarre Punishment, Environmental Hazards, Failure to Protect, Inadequate Supervision, and Threatened Harm as to all 7 of the children, with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.
- Verified Findings of Mental Injury and Physical Injury as to all 5 of the male children, with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.
- Verified Findings of Burns and Medical Neglect as to Anthony and [REDACTED] with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.
- Verified Findings of Substance Misuse-Alcohol as to all 7 of the children, with Tre Seymore as the caregiver responsible.
- Not Substantiated Findings of Physical Injury as to the 2 female children, with Alize Seymore and Tre Seymore as the caregivers responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

The siblings were sheltered on April 25, 2023, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family had open services at the time of the incident due to reunification in October 2022.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The deceased child and six siblings have collectively been the subjects of multiple prior investigations, received between May 2013 and February 2013. Some of these investigations were closed with verified findings (inadequate supervision and failure to thrive) and some (despite not being verified) resulted in the removal of several of the

children on more than one occasion. The deceased child had been removed a total of three times, with the last removal occurring in February 2022 from his biological father. He was then reunified in October 2022 with his mother, they continued with ongoing case management services which were open at the time of the fatality incident.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

10/5/23

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

10/5/23

Date