

## Child Fatality Summary

**Child's Name:** Oaklynn Alexander

**County:** Sarasota

**Date of Birth:** 09/23/2022

**Date of Death:** 5/31/2023

**Report Number:** 2023-179100

### Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Oaklynn Alexander	8 months	Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	2 years	Sibling
[REDACTED]	3 years	Sibling
Carissa Alexander	29 years	Mother
Nicholas Alexander	36 years	Father
Theresa Alexander	63 years	Paternal Grandmother

### Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on May 31, 2023, concerning the death of this 8-month-old infant, who was reportedly discovered unresponsive in her home. The infant resided with her two older siblings and the parents, and several of the parents' friends were visiting the residence. Additionally, the paternal grandmother resides in a mother-in-law suite on the same property.

Both parents were minimally cooperative with the Child Protective Investigation, and they provided limited information. Therefore, much of the information concerning the death incident was obtained from professional sources. The father advised that he and his coworker left the home for work sometime after 11:00 a.m. on May 31, 2023, leaving the children in the mother's care. When he and the coworker returned to the home around 4:45 p.m., the infant was laying prone on a couch cushion on the living room floor, and she appeared to be asleep. However, when they checked on her, she was discovered unresponsive. Of note, this is the same location/position the infant was laying in when the father left the home, nearly six hours earlier. The father reportedly then initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation and carried the infant to the grandmother's residence, and she suggested that he take the infant to the hospital, as she appeared dead. Moments later the coworker drove the father and infant to the local hospital and the father reportedly continued resuscitative efforts while in transit. He advised that he also administered one dose of Narcan during the commute to the hospital as he thought the infant may have gotten into something in the home; however, her condition did not improve. Medical professionals assessed the infant upon arrival at the hospital and pronounced her deceased.

A presumptive drug screen was offered to the grandmother, and she complied, testing positive for alcohol [REDACTED] The grandmother's medication was counted and there was no apparent concern that she was overusing her medication.

Regarding the parents, they both appeared visibly impaired, evidenced by slurred speech, difficulty focusing, and difficulty staying awake despite the seriousness of the situation. Concerns for the parents abusing substances was further supported as sources familiar with the family advised that the parents were battling an addiction to multiple illicit substances, to include cocaine, marijuana, and fentanyl. Presumptive drug screens were offered to the parents, but both declined.

Dr. S. Utey with the District 12 (Manatee, Sarasota, and Desoto counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the infant. The cause of death is listed as intoxication with fentanyl and the manner as an accident.

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office conducted the criminal investigation concerning the infant's death, and they noted that her autopsy results revealed that she tested positive for lethal levels of Fentanyl and Benzoylcegonine (a cocaine metabolite). Regarding the parents, law enforcement advised that they both appeared impaired during their interviews, and the father admitted that if drug tested, he would test positive for marijuana, cocaine, and fentanyl. The father further disclosed that he used cocaine intravenously around 1:00 a.m. on the morning of the incident and added that he and the mother smoked crack cocaine around 10:00 a.m. the same day. Additionally, the mother was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia which tested positive for Fentanyl, cocaine, Oxycodone, and Xylazine. Records note that law enforcement secured a warrant to obtain blood samples from the parents. They were tested for substances by medical professionals at the local hospital and their results were both positive for cocaine. Additionally, the father's results were positive for marijuana.

Law enforcement concluded that the infant was not checked on nor tended to for 10 or more hours on the day of the incident, while both parents were impaired by narcotics. The parents were both arrested on charges of aggravated manslaughter of a child; the mother was ultimately sentenced to a 10-year prison sentence and the father was sentenced to a 17-year prison sentence.

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

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Findings	Caregiver Responsible
Decedent	Death	Verified	Mother/Father
	Environmental Hazards	Verified	Mother/Father
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Mother/Father
	Substance Misuse - Illicit Drugs	Verified	Mother/Father


### Other Children in the Family

The Child Protection Team (CPT) examined the siblings and noted no signs of physical abuse or neglect. However, CPT noted that there was a concern for the safety of the children due to the parents' substance use and the family's environment [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

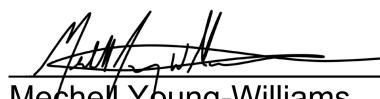
[REDACTED]

### Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There is a lengthy child welfare history dating back to 2014, with a pattern of concerns surrounding substance misuse, environmental hazards, and inadequate supervision. The parents were connected to various voluntary services throughout their history.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the most recent investigation occurred in February 2023 with concerns for environmental hazards but despite attempts, the family was uncooperative and was unable to be assessed.

  
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Mechell Ypung-Williams  
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist  
SunCoast Region

4/8/2025

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Date

*Robert W. Wilson*  
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Robert Wilson  
Operations & Management Consultant Manager  
SunCoast Region

04-08-2025

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Date