

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Aiden Kennedy

County: Osceola

Date of Birth: 10/26/2009

Date of Death: 08/21/2023

Report Number: 2023-240677

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Aiden Kennedy	13 years old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	5 years old	Sibling
Jasmin Kennedy	37 years old	Mother
Tounya Kennedy-Workman	57 years old	Maternal Grandmother
Kenneth Ruch	53 years old	Maternal Step-Grandfather

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On August 21, 2023, the 13-year-old child passed away after being strangled by the mother, who was subsequently arrested.

According to the family and law enforcement, the following information was provided.

On August 21, 2023, the step grandfather woke up at approximately 6:00 a.m. He took the dogs out in the backyard before getting his coffee. He was sitting underneath the car port a few extra minutes and saw the mother come outside the home, walk around, and then go back into the home. He thought this was a bit strange but brushed it off as she usually wakes up around that time. When he went back inside, he went to the kitchen to get some coffee and the mother approached him from the left side and stated, "We need to talk business". He thought this was a serious request as he had just onboarded her at his company as a receptionist. She then stated she needed to go behind the mobile trailer that he had out back. The mother then asked if he had a gun to which he responded that he did, and then asked her why she needed a gun. The step grandfather dismissed her when she would not say anything, thinking maybe she saw a bobcat or an animal outside. He then went outside to get ready for the day. He then went back inside because he felt deep in his gut that something was off with the mother. When he went back inside, he saw the mother was sitting on the couch. He placed his left hand on her shoulder and asked her if everything was fine, to which she responded in an emotionless tone, with a smirk on her face, "Yep". The mother then stated, "I sent Aiden home". At this point, he was not sure if this was a joke, or that she had planned to send the child back to Texas where he was born. He questioned her further, she responded, "He's dead", to which the grandfather stated to her, "He better fucking not be dead".

From the corner of his eye, he saw that his adult stepson had arrived for work. The grandfather went outside and told him that he believed that the mother had done something to the child. The stepson ran inside and by the time that the grandfather could make it to the grandmother's room to wake her up, his stepson was screaming for help from the child's room. The grandfather stated that after that the events became blurry. 911 was called, and Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Personnel responded to the home.

On August 21, 2023, Aiden Kennedy was pronounced deceased on scene at 7:35 a.m.

All the adults consented to drug screens and were negative.

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Aiden Kennedy (23i092966). On August 21, 2023, Jasmin Kennedy was arrested and charged with Felony Battery or Domestic Battery by Strangulation, Cruelty Toward Child-Aggravated Battery on Child, Cruelty Toward Child-Torture battery on Child, and Second-Degree Murder. According to the OCSO Arrest Affidavit for the mother Jasmin Kennedy, the Detective indicated she was interviewed at OCSO where she stated her name was "Yahweh", and her nickname was "Jasmin". The mother completed a reenactment with a doll and she demonstrated that she straddled the child, pinned him down, and then she strangled him with both hands until she no longer felt a heartbeat. The mother stated it was harder than she thought it would be. When asked why she did this, the mother stated she had spared the child from the devil.

The death certificate was received on September 6, 2023, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Aiden Kennedy on August 28, 2023. ME# 23-25-01690.

Cause of Death: Strangulation

Manner of Death: Homicide

Autopsy findings:

1. Strangulation
 - a. Suffusion of head and neck
 - b. Periorbital edema
 - c. Facial petechia
 - d. Pulmonary edema
 - e. Laryngeal mucosa petechia
 - f. Hemorrhage into right sternothyroid muscle

Conclusion: *In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body and review of toxicology report, it is my opinion that Aiden Kennedy, a 13-year-old adolescent male, died as the result of strangulation.*

On May 15, 2024, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Physical Injury, and Inadequate Supervision as to the deceased child, with the mother as a caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Threatened Harm as to the sibling, with the mother as a caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Inadequate Supervision as to the deceased child, with the grandmother as a caregiver responsible.
- Verified Findings of Failure to Protect as to the deceased child and the sibling, with the mother as a caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

Grief counseling information was provided to the family.

[REDACTED]

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

[REDACTED]

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

5/20/24

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

5/20/24

Date