

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Evan Dubenion

County: Duval

Date of Birth: August 12, 2016

Date of Death: August 14, 2023

Report Number: 2023-253650

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Evan Dubenion	7	Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	9	Sibling
Kanisha Bertrand	30	Mother
Kisha Bertrand	46	Maternal Grandmother/Caregiver at the time
Re'jon Jackson	24	Maternal Uncle

1. Circumstances Surrounding Death

On August 14, 2023, this 7-year-old child was accidentally shot and killed by his sibling.

As law enforcement requested that the department not interview either the grandmother or the uncle, the following information was obtained from the law enforcement report.

On 8/14/23, the mother took the children to the grandmother's home around 9am while she went to complete training for a new job. The children ate and then began playing video games and watching television. The grandmother was working from home and reported she would check on the boys occasionally or they would come into her home office. The children kept going up and down the stairs and the grandmother told them to stay downstairs. While she was in her office, she heard a loud pop, so she went into the uncle's room (which is upstairs) and asked the sibling what happened. She then saw Evan on the floor with blood coming from his head and called 911. During this call, the grandmother advised dispatch that the sibling had shot Evan in the head. Law Enforcement (LE) and Emergency Medical Services arrived and transported him to UF Health. Despite life-saving efforts, Evan was pronounced deceased at 3:34pm.

The sibling reported that he and Evan were playing in their uncle's room and found a gun in the drawer of the dresser. The sibling was playing with the gun when it fired. He then just dropped the gun on the floor.

When LE arrived, they did not observe the gun in the room. The grandmother denied seeing or moving a gun. She stated that she did own a Glock 9mm but it is kept in her desk drawer; she was certain it was still there and that there was no way the children could have accessed it. When asked how she knew Evan had been shot, she said she smelled gunpowder when she entered the room. A Glock 40-caliber firearm was later located, wrapped in linens and placed in the linen closet across from the uncle's room. This matched the shell casing found in the uncle's bedroom. There was also an unsecured AK47 under the bed in the uncle's bedroom. When asked who owned the gun(s) the grandmother stated she didn't know and that a lot of people are in and out of her home. She stated that the children's uncle did live there but had not been there in a few days. She stated that the uncle's paramour had been staying in that room for the past six months but had moved out a week prior to this incident. The grandmother refused to provide any information about this person. It should be noted, the uncle is a convicted felon and was on probation at the time, due to possessing a firearm while being a convicted felon, which occurred

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in December 2022. The grandmother maintained that she routinely checked him to ensure he did not have any firearms in his possession, prior to him coming into her home.

The uncle was not at the home when the incident occurred and invoked his right to counsel when he was asked any questions beyond providing his address and how long he has resided there.

The children are not usually at the grandmother's home. They would visit every couple of months but not regularly. The mother denied knowing the grandmother had any guns in the home and denied knowledge that the uncle was living in the home, as she believed he was living with his father (the mother and uncle are half-siblings, as they do not have the same father).

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office opened an investigation which was closed on October 3, 2023, without pursuing criminal charges.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy and determined the cause of death as gunshot wound to head with perforation of skull and brain. The manner of death was a homicide.

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, DCF Duval County Child Protective Investigations closed the investigation on October 15, 2024, with verified findings of death and inadequate supervision as to Evan, and verified findings of inadequate supervision as to the sibling. The grandmother was the identified caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Home

Evan had one sibling at the time of his death who was deemed safe and remained in the care of the mother. The mother and sibling engaged in therapy.

2. Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

Neither of the children have any prior reports, and the mother doesn't have any prior reports as an adult caregiver. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Melissa Stanley, MSMFT, MBA, CPP
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

5/8/2025

Date

Racquel Courts

Racquel Courts
NER Program Manager

5/21/2025

Date