

Indiana: 2023 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect.

Victim: 3-year-old boy

DCS involvement at time of fatal event: No open DCS involvement

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 3-year-old boy, 2; 1-year-old girl, 0

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl died from forcible drowning. The children lived with their parents. On the day of the fatalities, the mother drove herself to the police station and said she had drowned her children while the father was at work. The mother stated she had been hearing voices and believed that her children were going to have a life of torture. The mother stated she had received mental health treatment and was prescribed medication, but it did not help. The mother admitted to using cocaine and unprescribed Xanax daily and felt that the illegal drug use and audible hallucinations caused her to snap. The mother stated family members were aware of her hearing voices but were not aware they concerned her children.