

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: 0

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Father

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 3-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was home with the children while the mother was at work. The father reported he was playing with the siblings on the bed and remembered he had his firearm in his pocket. The father reported he placed the firearm on the dresser next to him. The father reported that while on the bed, he spoke to the mother on the telephone and lost sight of the child. The father reported he heard a noise and realized the child had shot himself with the father's unsecured firearm. Law enforcement found the weapon and reported that it had a magazine loaded with 13 live rounds.