

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: 2-year-old girl

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 1 in Indiana; 2 in Oklahoma

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 2-year-old girl died from homicide of unspecified means. She lived with her mother, sibling, mother's boyfriend and a roommate. On the day of the incident, the mother said, the child woke up crying, and her boyfriend threw the child on the floor. The mother stated the child had been the subject of ongoing abuse by the boyfriend for months. The mother stated she and the boyfriend had been using oxycodone, fentanyl and suboxone. The mother said that at some point, she heard the boyfriend yelling at the child and getting angrier, and that when she checked on the child, the child was unresponsive. The mother stated the boyfriend wrapped the child in a blanket and placed the child in the back seat of his car. The mother stated she rode with the boyfriend to dispose of the child's body, then they fled the state. The child's body eventually was recovered in an abandoned home.