

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: 5-year-old girl

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: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 5-year-old girl died from a gunshot wound. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the child and the mother were home alone. At some point, the father was unable to get in contact with the mother, so he sent relatives to check on her. The mother and child were found deceased from an apparent murder/suicide. The mother had been depressed and received mental health treatment but was not consistent with taking her medication.