

Indiana: 2022 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: 8-year-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 1

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Mother's boyfriend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: An 8-year-old boy died from ligature compression of the neck. He lived with his mother and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the child had to be picked up from an activity center because of behavior issues. The child's mother was at work, so her boyfriend brought the child home. He proceeded to lock the child in his bedroom. Approximately two hours later, the mother came home and found the child deceased with a plastic zip tie around his neck. Two months earlier, the child had received inpatient mental health treatment after making suicidal statements about choking himself. A safety plan was in place calling for the removal of anything that could be potentially harmful to the child. The mother's boyfriend reported that he knew the child needed to be checked on every several minutes, but he became sidetracked while playing a video game and failed to check on the child for about an hour and a half. He also said the zip ties belonged to him and that the child liked playing with the zip ties.