

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: 2-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, Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 2-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound. He lived with his parents and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the family was at home preparing to leave for vacation. The mother went outside to put things in the vehicle while the father stayed inside with the children. The mother heard a loud bang. The father ran outside with the 2-year-old, and they transported him to the hospital. The father stated he was cleaning in the kitchen, heard the gunshot, and immediately ran toward the child. The father stated he had placed his gun in the child's diaper bag, which was unzipped and sitting on the floor. The father said the child got the gun out of the diaper bag and the gun went off. The mother stated she knew the father had placed the gun in the child's diaper bag and that the child would get into the diaper bag because he knew his drink and snacks were inside.