

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-month-old girl

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

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 2

Circumstances: A 2-month-old girl died from undetermined causes. She lived with her mother and siblings. The mother stated that, on the day of the fatality, the child would not quit crying, so she gave her a bath. After the bath, she aggressively rubbed lotion on the child and then aggressively rocked her while telling her to shut up and stop crying. When the child continued to cry, the mother struck her on the leg. She then placed the child on the couch and forcefully shoved a bottle in her mouth, causing her to make a gurgling sound. The child continued to cry, so the mother placed her toward the top of the couch and turned her to face the back, where the pillows would muffle the crying. The mother went to bed. When she woke up, she found the child unresponsive. The mother tested positive for methamphetamine and amphetamine.