

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: 7-month-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 7-month-old girl died by drowning due to lack of supervision. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was giving the child a bath. The child was in the bathtub, in a seat designed to help babies sit upright. The mother went to another room, leaving the child alone. She had music playing loudly and couldn't hear the child. She returned several minutes later and found the child face down in the water. The mother admitted to smoking marijuana prior to the incident. The seat had a prominent warning label advising it was never to be used in or near water. A relative reported that he visited the home three to four weeks prior and found the child alone in the bathtub – half in the seat, half in the tub. He said he told the mother it was unsafe to leave the child alone in the bathtub.