

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: 4-year-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 5

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Mother, mother's boyfriend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 4-year-old boy died from a gunshot wound to the head. He lived with his mother, sibling and mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the mother and her boyfriend left the child and his younger sibling home alone. The mother and her boyfriend returned home, and the mother, the child and his sibling went to an upstairs bedroom while the mother's boyfriend was downstairs. The mother took a nap. Shortly after she woke up, she observed the child holding the boyfriend's gun, and the gun went off. The mother and her boyfriend knew the gun was stored in the sibling's dollhouse. The child was able to access the loaded weapon, and no safety features were enabled on the gun.