

## Indiana: 2024 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.

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Victim: 5-year-old girl

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 5 (the family was unable to be located

during 4 of the assessments)

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 2

Screened-out reports: 2

Perpetrators: Mother, mother's boyfriend, grandmother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: Mother, 2; mother's boyfriend, 0; grandmother, 0

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 5-year-old girl died from complications of malnutrition and dehydration. She lived with her mother, siblings and the mother's boyfriend. On the day of the fatality, the mother called 911 due to the child becoming unresponsive. Upon arrival at the hospital, the child was observed to be extremely gaunt and emaciated with her bones protruding. Fecal matter was observed on the child's body from her head to the soles of her feet. The child's head was covered with lice, and the child weighed less than she had two years prior. The mother and her boyfriend provided inconsistent stories regarding the events leading up to the child's death. Law enforcement searched the home and found that the closet in the children's bedroom was covered in urine and human fecal matter. The mother eventually admitted that she did not have a bond with the child, and she had been locking the child in the closet for several months. The mother stated she did the bare minimum for the child and wanted the child out of her life. The mother stated that the grandmother had watched the child for her a few times and was aware of the child being locked in the closet. The mother's boyfriend and the grandmother were aware of how the child was being neglected but at no time intervened.