

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.

Victim: 9-day-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

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 2

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 9-day-old boy died from positional asphyxia. He lived with his mother, sibling and mother's roommates. On the afternoon prior to the fatality, the mother and children returned home after visiting a friend, and the child was asleep in his car seat. The mother left the child in his car seat while she and the sibling went to bed. When the mother checked on the child 13 hours later, she found the child unresponsive, in the car seat, with his head hanging to the side. The mother stated she last fed the child at her friend's house the day before, which meant the child had not eaten for approximately 14 hours.