

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: 28-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: Father

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 28-day-old boy died from suffocation due to smothering. He lived with his parents and a sibling. On the day of the fatality, the father cared for the child while the mother was at work. The father stated he placed the child to sleep in the bassinet and then went back to sleep. The father stated he woke up a few hours later and found the child face down and unresponsive. The child was observed to have an injury to his bottom lip. The father stated he had auditory hallucinations with different voices telling him to do things, which he sometimes did. The father eventually admitted that he put a pacifier in the child's mouth, placed the child face down in the bassinet so the pacifier would stay in place, and applied force to the child's head for two to three minutes until he thought the child was asleep. The father admitted that his actions caused the child's death.