

Minnesota Safe Passage for Children Child Fatality Report 2023-2024

Name of Child Victim: Za'Maiya Travis

County: Ramsey County

Date of Death: 03/31/2023

Date of Birth: 12/16/2015

Age: 7 years

Adult Perpetrator: Mother

Abuse type: Neglect

Summary:

At around 6:40 a.m. on March 31, 2023, medics and officers pronounced Za'Maiya dead on a blowup mattress in the middle of the living room. According to Za'Maiya's mother and her boyfriend, they all went to bed around 11:30 p.m. When Za'Maiya's mother woke up around 6 a.m. to wake up Za'Maiya for school, she would not wake up. Her hands were curled up and stiff, and her skin was purple. Officers obtained a search warrant and retrieved Za'Maiya's mother's wallet from her bedroom, which contained a straw with white residue. Officers also recovered a blue M30 pill from her purse. Six straws with white powder residue were recovered from the bedroom. No other drugs were found in the home. Za'Maiya's cause of death was fentanyl toxicity.

Za'Maiya's mother was charged with 2nd-degree manslaughter.

Previous History:

Right before her death, Za'Maiya and her family were working with child protection to transfer custody of Za'Maiya to her grandmother. There were concerns of physical abuse that Za'Maiya's school documented but failed to report until after her death. Additionally, Za'Maiya's mother struggled with SUD, and her father had domestic assault charges.