

Minnesota Safe Passage for Children Child Fatality Report 2023-2024

Name of Child Victim: Kaiden Rathke

County: Anoka County

Date of Death: 03/01/2023

Date of Birth: 09/26/2022

Age: 5 months

Adult Perpetrator: Father

Abuse type: Physical abuse

Summary:

Kaiden's father repeatedly suffocated him until he became unconscious to "get him to sleep" and then revived him. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office released its preliminary 24 report. The Immediate Cause of Death was listed as multiple blunt force injuries, and the Manner of Death was homicide. Injuries found during the autopsy included subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage, traumatic axonal injury of the brain and spinal cord, optic nerve sheath hemorrhage, scant retina hemorrhaging, and multiple acute and healing rib fractures with remote fracturing of the mid-thoracic spinal cord.

Kaiden's father is currently being held on bail and is charged with murder in the 2nd degree - with intent - not premeditated.

Previous History:

Kaiden's father has a domestic abuse conviction as well as a criminal sexual conduct case when he was a juvenile. There was no indication of child protection history in the court records.