

North Carolina Public Records Act Request

The following information was received in response to a public records request submitted under the North Carolina Public Records Law (G.S. §132-1) by Lives Cut Short. Records were provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner on January 27, 2025.

CANDID ID: NC_22_220

Decedent's Name: Bentley Smith

Victim Age: 3 years

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: Black

Date of Death: 01/01/2022

Death County: Pitt

Cause of Death: Blunt force injuries and cardiac arrest

Manner of Death: Homicide

Preliminary Circumstances: Emergency services responded to a report of a possible cardiac arrest involving a three-year-old child at a residence in Greenville, North Carolina. The child was transported to Vidant Medical Center and later died. The father, Danny Smith Jr., was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter and felony child abuse. The case has been labeled a suspicious death and is under active investigation.