

## 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\_275

Decedent's Name: Dani Harmon

Victim Age: 8 months

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: Black

Date of Death: 09/29/2022

Death County: Buncombe

Cause of Death: Blunt force injuries to the head and fentanyl exposure

Manner of Death: Homicide

Preliminary Circumstances: On September 26, 2022, Asheville Police responded to Mission Hospital following the reported overdose of an 8-month-old infant, Dani Harmon, who was later pronounced dead. An autopsy by the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner identified the cause of death as complications from blunt force head injuries and fentanyl exposure. The child's mother, Samantha Lynn Higgins, was arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter and felony negligent child abuse. In March 2025, a Buncombe County jury found Higgins guilty of involuntary manslaughter and not guilty of child abuse. She was sentenced to 17–30 months in prison.