

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_62

Decedent's Name: Romie Tyler

Victim Age: 1 year

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: Black

Date of Death: 09/18/2022

Death County: Nash

Cause of Death: Blunt force injuries

Manner of Death: Homicide

Preliminary Circumstances: On September 18, 2022, 1-year-old Romie Tyler III was found unresponsive in a bathtub at a residence on Paul Street in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The child was transported to Nash UNC Health Care, where resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. An autopsy later determined the cause of death to be blunt force head trauma, with additional injuries including blunt force injuries to the torso and extremities, multiple possible burns, and fluid in the lungs. According to the investigation, Romie had been placed in the bathtub by his mother's boyfriend, Marcus Richardson, and left unattended. Richardson has been charged with first-degree murder and felony child abuse. The child's mother, Sierra Eley, has been charged with felony intentional child abuse, inflicting serious physical injury. Both remain in custody.