OIG2023 #103

Child No. 103 DOB: 08/2015 DOD: 06/2022 Accident

Age at death: 6 years

Cause of death: Multiple blunt force injuries due to motor vehicle striking fixed object Reason for review: Split custody

Action taken: Investigatory review of records

Narrative: Six-year-old and six of his siblings, ages 1 to 15, were passengers in a car driven by their mother when the car crashed into a median. The child was unrestrained, thrown from the vehicle and died four days later. Law enforcement reported only two children were wearing seatbelts during the accident. DCFS opened an investigation following the accident. The mother reported all children had been wearing seatbelts, and the 1-year-old sister was in a car seat. She tested positive for alcohol and marijuana and was charged with an aggravated DUI and child endangerment. DCFS indicated the mother for death by neglect; head injuries by neglect; internal injuries by neglect; bone fractures by neglect; cuts, bruises, welts, abrasions, and oral injuries by abuse and by neglect; and substantial risk of physical injury/environment

injurious to health and welfare by neglect. Following the death, the court granted DCFS temporary custody of the surviving siblings.

Reason for Review: In June 2022, two weeks before the child's death, juvenile delinquency court ordered the child's 16-year-old brother to be held in juvenile detention for approximately six weeks, followed by three years of probation and ordered him into the custody of DCFS. Recommended services included mentoring, anger management, trauma focused therapy, and family therapy with the mother, and brother to comply with probation recommendations. Four days later, the placement worker spoke with the mother, who stated she did not need services, and the father also needed to be held accountable. At the

time of the child's death, the 16-year-old brother remained in detention and the placement case remained open.