

Office of the Inspector General Report to the Governor and General Assembly (Jan. 2024)

OIG2024 #104

Child No. 104	DOB: 07/2022	DOD: 07/2022	Natural
Age at death:	13 hours		
Cause of death:	Multiple congenital anomalies and complications of premature birth; significant contributing condition of in utero exposure to methamphetamine and phenobarbital		
Reason for review:	Indicated child protection investigation within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<p><u>Narrative:</u> Newborn began to experience respiratory problems shortly after her birth. She was air- lifted to a different hospital and treated in the NICU, where she was pronounced deceased. She had been born premature, at 28 weeks gestation, and the mother had not received prenatal care. Upon admission to the hospital, the mother tested positive for methamphetamines and the baby tested positive for methamphetamines and phenobarbital. The mother initially reported she did not know she was pregnant, but police reported body cam footage from one month earlier that recorded her telling a police officer they could not place her in handcuffs because she was pregnant. She reported she used methamphetamine one week before the birth because she was in pain. DCFS indicated the newborn's mother for death by neglect (#51) and substance misuse by neglect (#65), but unfounded her for substance misuse by abuse (#15).</p> <p>Reason for Review: In June 2021, DCFS received a report that the newborn's mother gave birth to the newborn's sister, the mother received very little prenatal care, the mother tested positive for amphetamines and communicable diseases at a previous prenatal visit, and the maternal great grandmother had guardianship of the then 2-year-old sibling. The CPI met with the mother at the hospital, who reported she had a mental health diagnosis and had been unable to take medication during the pregnancy. The mother agreed to a short-term guardianship and the newborn's sister was placed with her maternal great aunt. The mother's medical providers reported that approximately one month earlier, at her last prenatal visit, she tested positive for marijuana and amphetamines, and she had not picked up prescribed medication. DCFS indicated the mother for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60). The newborn's siblings remained in the care of relatives.</p>			