

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

OIG2024 #105

Child No. 105	DOB: 07/2022	DOD: 07/2022	Natural
Age at death:	8 days		
Cause of death:	Acute hypoxic encephalopathy due to persistent pulmonary hypertension due to patent ductus arteriosus due to maternal abruptio placenta due to maternal methamphetamine abuse		
Reason for review:	Open placement case and pending child protection investigation at time of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<u>Narrative:</u> Eight-day-old died at the hospital where he had been born and received treatment in the NICU. He had been born with multiple medical issues, his mother had a history of drug use, and his cord blood tested positive for methamphetamine. DCFS indicated the newborn's mother for substance misuse by neglect (#65) but unfounded her for death by abuse (#1) and death by neglect (#51), and unfounded the father for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60).			
<u>Reason for Review:</u> The newborn had four paternal siblings who came into DCFS care in 2019. The father and the siblings' mother surrendered custody of the newborn's three paternal brothers. In April 2021, the newborn's paternal sister was returned to her mother's care. In November 2021, DCFS closed the paternal sister's placement case. The newborn's father and the siblings' mother have had no further documented contact with the brothers, who remain in a fictive kin foster home, and the brothers' placement cases remain open. In 2019, DCFS indicated the newborn's mother for death by neglect (#51) to the newborn's 6-month-old maternal sister and indicated the sister's father for death by abuse (#1). In July 2022, DCFS received a report that the newborn's mother gave birth to him, she had a past indicated finding for a child's death, and she tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana. DCFS planned to take protective custody when the newborn was discharged. The investigation remained pending at the time of his death.			