

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

OIG2024 #21

Child No. 21	DOB: 10/2022	DOD: 12/2022	Homicide
Age at death:	2 months		
Cause of death:	Closed head injuries due to inflicted head trauma		
Alleged perpetrator:	Mother and father		
Reason for review:	Pending child protection investigation at time of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<u>Narrative:</u>	Two-month-old presented at the hospital one week prior to her death with significant head trauma. The infant died in the hospital. Neither parent could explain the injuries. The child abuse pediatrician at the hospital stated the injury was likely the result of abuse. Law enforcement interviewed the parents, who denied they hurt the infant. DCFS indicated both parents for death by abuse (#1) and head injuries by abuse (#2) because the medical examiner ruled the death a homicide and the parents were the only caretakers for the infant at the time. A criminal investigation remains pending.		
<u>Reason for Review:</u>	In November 2022, DCFS received a report that the then 4-week-old infant went to her pediatrician for a weight check, where they found she had a distended abdomen. Her pediatrician recommended the parents take her to the emergency room and arranged ride-share transportation for the parents, but they refused, so medical staff called 911 for an ambulance transport. The CPI spoke with staff at the emergency room, who reported they discharged the infant to her parents as there was nothing unusual in her test results. The CPI met with the family at home, observed a bassinet and formula for the infant, and noted the parents received WIC assistance. The infant's pediatrician noted she came for three prior weight checks and there were no concerns at the prior appointments. The infant's emergency room records showed no concerns for abuse or neglect. In December 2022, while the investigation remained pending, the then 8-week-old infant presented at the hospital with head trauma and died one week later. DCFS later unfounded the November 2022 investigation for medical neglect (#79).		