

[Office of the Inspector General Report to the Governor and General Assembly \(Jan. 2024\)](#)

OIG2024 #51

Child No. 51	DOB: 08/2022	DOD: 11/2022	Undetermined
Age at death:	3 months		
Cause of death:	Unexplained sudden death (extrinsic factors identified)		
Reason for review:	Open intact family services case at time of child's death; unfounded child protection investigation within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<p><u>Narrative:</u> Three-month-old was found unresponsive, on his stomach, in an adult bed. The infant was transported by ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The mother reported the family was staying in a friend's home. She stated the night before, she went out with the friend and left the infant and his 20-month-old, 4-year-old, and 15-year-old siblings in the care of their maternal grandmother. When she returned home, she stated the children and grandmother were asleep on the sofa. She stated she woke the 20-month-old and 4-year-old and brought them to share the bed with her, but she also found the infant in the bed when she awoke. The 15-year-old brother stated the mother asked him to bring the infant to the bedroom where she was sleeping, and she was awake when he placed the infant on the bed, but the mother stated she did not know the brother placed the infant in the bed. The mother reported she consumed three or four alcoholic drinks, denied she was intoxicated when she returned to the home. She reported she did not bring the pack-and-play to the friend's home. DCFS unfounded the mother for death by neglect (#51).</p> <p>Reason for Review: In August 2022, the day after the infant's birth, DCFS received a report that the mother and her infant tested positive for marijuana at the birth. The reporter stated that while the mother had been pregnant, she had a mental health crisis and continued to struggle with mental health issues. The reporter noted the infant was born premature and required a g-tube and would remain hospitalized for several weeks. The CPI met with the infant and his mother at the hospital. The mother reported that she struggled with her mental health during pregnancy. She reported that she had stopped medication during pregnancy but planned to resume taking her prescribed medication after the birth and start counseling. The mother reported she lived with her children, her mother, and her adult brother who had developmental delays, and noted she and the children's father separated several months earlier. After the infant was discharged home, the CPI met with the mother, discussed safe sleep, and observed the infant slept in a pack-and-play in the mother's room. The mother reported the family planned to move later that month to be closer to family supports, but she wanted to participate in the intact program. The infant's 15-year-old brother reported his mother cared for everyone. The CPI noted the infant and his 19-month-old, 4-year-old, and 15-year-old siblings appeared free of signs of abuse or neglect. The infant's maternal grandmother reported no concerns about the mother's care for the children. She noted the mother cared for her in the home and took her to all medical appointments. The grandmother reported she helped with the children as much as possible, but she was not always able to assist due to her health. DCFS opened the intact family services case and unfounded the investigation for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60). The intact worker recommended mental health assessment, counseling, and medication management for the mother. The infant died before the mother began services.</p>			