

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

OIG2024 #52

Child No. 52	DOB: 08/2022	DOD: 12/2022	Undetermined
Age at death:	4 months		
Cause of death:	Sudden unexplained infant death with co-sleeping		
Reason for review:	Closed intact family services case within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<b>Narrative:</b> Four-month-old stopped breathing, so his mother called 911. Emergency services transported the infant to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The mother reported she gave the infant a bottle then laid down with him, and she found him unresponsive when she awoke five or six hours later. DCFS opened an investigation into the infant's death and initiated an out-of-home safety plan for the infant's 5-year-old sister. After the infant's death, the mother completed a drug test that came back positive for cocaine. Subsequent drug tests were positive for THC. DCFS unfounded the infant's mother for death by neglect (#51) but indicated her for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60).			
<b>Reason for Review:</b> In July 2021, DCFS opened an intact family services case for the infant's family during an investigation in which his mother was indicated for death by neglect (#51). The infant's 8-week-old brother had died by asphyxiation after his mother propped a bottle in the brother's mouth and left him in a car seat. DCFS unfounded the infant's father for the same allegation because he was not caring for the brother at the time of his death. The intact worker conducted regular home visits and recommended domestic violence services, parenting classes, housing advocacy, and grief counseling. The mother participated in counseling, and the infant's then 4-year-old sister participated in therapy. The intact worker noted the mother obtained a housing voucher and found appropriate housing for herself and the infant's sister. The infant's father was reportedly incarcerated and did not have any contact with the family or the intact worker. The intact worker noted the mother cooperated with intact services, participated in recommended services, obtained an order of protection against the infant's father, and maintained employment and housing. In February 2022, the court ordered the family's intact case closed.			