

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

OIG2024 #64

Child No. 64	DOB: 09/2022	DOD: 04/2023	Pending autopsy
Age at death:	7 months		
Cause of death:	Pending autopsy		
Reason for review:	Open intact family services case at time of child's death; one unfounded and one indicated child protection investigation within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Full investigation pending		
<b><u>Narrative:</u></b> Seven-month-old died at the hospital. She presented at a local hospital for labored breathing, had to be resuscitated, and was airlifted to a children's hospital for further treatment. She was pronounced deceased later that day. Hospital staff noted she had abrasions all over her body, her g-tube had not been cleaned properly, and she was malnourished. They added the mother's story was inconsistent and the family provided multiple addresses, including an address in a neighboring state. DCFS alerted the neighboring state's child protective services, who located the infant's siblings with a relative. The children were assessed safe with the relative. The court granted DCFS custody of the infant's siblings and placed them with a maternal family member. The DCFS investigation of the infant's death remains pending.			
<b><u>Reason for Review:</u></b> In September 2022, DCFS received a report that the infant was born premature, at 28 weeks gestation, her mother disclosed that she used cocaine five days earlier, and the infant tested positive for cocaine at birth. The mother had a stroke during delivery and was in an induced coma. The CPI observed the infant at the hospital. Approximately two weeks later, the mother was discharged, but the medical staff reported the infant had a brain bleed and would remain in the NICU. The mother told the CPI that she had four other children, between the ages of 2 and 10 years old, but her oldest lived with a relative in a neighboring state. She stated she did not know she was pregnant; she would not have used drugs if she did, and she had never used cocaine before. The father denied he ever used drugs and denied any previous knowledge of the mother using drugs. The CPI met with the family at home, and the infant's verbal siblings denied they had ever witnessed their mother use drugs. The mother completed a drug screening and tested positive for cocaine. The mother completed two additional drug screenings over the following weeks and both tests were negative for all substances. Hospital staff reported the infant was nearing discharge and the parents had completed training for the infant's g-tube. DCFS indicated the mother in the September 2022 investigation for substance misuse by neglect (#65) and substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60). The family agreed to intact family services. The intact worker recommended substance use assessment and treatment, parenting classes, and mental health services for the mother, and a 0-3 assessment for the infant. During the visit, the father completed a negative drug test. The mother was unable to provide a sample, and an appointment was set for two days later. Within the week, the mother stopped complying with drug tests and visits with the intact worker. The family moved out of the home and did not inform the CPI or intact worker of their new address. DCFS opened a new investigation. The intact worker and CPI on the new investigation continued efforts to locate the family. A neighboring state reported the infant's 11-year-old sister was registered in school but had not attended that year. The investigation was unfounded for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60). The intact family services case remained open, and the intact worker performed diligent searches for the family but never located the family prior to the infant's death.			