

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

OIG2024 #72

Child No. 72	DOB: 11/2009	DOD: 08/2022	Accident
Age at death:	12 years		
Cause of death:	Combined ethanol, fentanyl, and despropionyl fentanyl (4-ANPP) toxicity		
Reason for review:	Unfounded child protection investigation within one year of child's death		
Action taken:	Investigatory review of records		
<u>Narrative:</u>	Twelve-year-old was found unresponsive by his mother. Emergency services responded to the home and found drug paraphernalia on his bed, including a pipe. His family reported he was watching television in the living room with his 17-year-old, 19-year-old, and 25-year-old siblings until approximately 3:30am, then he went to his bedroom. DCFS took protective custody of the child's 4-year-old, 6-year-old, and 10-year-old siblings. The mother's paramour denied knowledge of the child using drugs, but reported that earlier that year, he and the mother discovered the child's 19-year-old and 25-year-old siblings had been using Percocet (oxycodone-acetaminophen). The child's mother completed an oral toxicology screening that was positive for marijuana, benzodiazepines, and cocaine. DCFS indicated the child's mother for death by neglect (#51) and substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60).		
<u>Reason for Review:</u>	In January 2022, DCFS received a report that the child's mother used cocaine and drank alcohol frequently, and the family home and the children were dirty. The CPI interviewed the child and his 4-year-old, 6-year-old, and 9-year-old siblings, noted they did not show signs of abuse or neglect, and reported they felt safe at home. The 9-year-old denied seeing drugs or drug paraphernalia in the home. The mother denied the allegations and reported she cleaned the home and cooked for the children. The CPI noted the child's mother did not appear under the influence of any substances during the investigation, and the mother reported she completed substance use treatment two years earlier. She completed a drug test that was negative for all substances. The CPI completed the home safety checklist and noted no concerns. School personnel reported the children attended school daily and appeared clean and the pediatrician's office reported the children were seen recently and there were no concerns noted. In April 2022, DCFS unfounded the investigation for substantial risk of physical injury/environment injurious to health and welfare by neglect (#60).		