

## Indiana: 2024 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect.

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Victim: 3-month-old boy

DCS involvement at time of fatal event: No open DCS involvement

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 0

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrators: Father, mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: Father, 3; mother, 1

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from inhalation of products of combustion and thermal burns. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother left the children at home with the father while she ran an errand. The mother stated the child was asleep when she left, and the father and older siblings were awake. The mother stated she returned home approximately 20 minutes later and observed fire and police personnel at the home. The father stated he was asleep when his oldest child woke him up and said the house was on fire. The father stated he grabbed the siblings and the dog and got out of the house. Law enforcement stated the father was heavily intoxicated and did not report that the child was still in the home until law enforcement asked if all the children had been accounted for. The child was eventually located in his crib by fire personnel, in the room shared by the parents and siblings, and was transported to the hospital where he died shortly after. The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive for THC. Law enforcement reported that the father's blood alcohol content was 0.262. The mother and father admitted that the father was an alcoholic.