

Barsh Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Nova'Lynn Barsh

County: Escambia

Date of Birth: 01/26/2022

Date of Death: 03/17/2023

Report Number: 2023-090337

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Nova'Lynn Barsh	13 months old	Deceased Child
██████████	23 months old	Sibling
██████████	3 years old	Sibling
██████████	9 years old	Half Sibling by the father
██████████	13 years old	Half Sibling by the mother
Nina Bucci	35 years old	Mother
Brian Barsh	36 years old	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on March 17, 2023 concerning the hospitalization of two children and the death of a 13 month old child due to injuries received from a house fire. The household included the deceased child, her two older siblings, two older half siblings, the mother and the father. The half siblings did not reside in the home full time. The family resided in an apartment located on the same property as the Barsh children's paternal grandmother's home.

On 03/17/2023, the mother left the three youngest children in the apartment to go into the grandmother's home to make cinnamon rolls for the children as the apartment did not have a kitchen. The 9-year-old child was at the grandmother's home during this time. The grandmother asked the 9-year-old to go to the apartment to get the broom. The 9-year-old left the grandmother's home to get the broom, but she ran back in the home and told the mother and the grandmother that the apartment was on fire. Video surveillance from the property showed that there was nine to ten minutes from the time the mother left the apartment until the 9-year-old left the grandmother's home to get the broom and saw the fire.

The mother attempted to go into the apartment, but she was unable to do so because of the heat and smoke. A neighbor came and assisted, as well as the local fire department. The 23-month-old child and the 3-year-old child were taken out of the home and were transported to the hospital with burn injuries. The 13-month-old child was the last child to be pulled out of the home, and she was pronounced deceased at the scene. The father was not at the home during the time of the fire.

Following the Fire Marshall's investigation, it was determined that the apartment fire was caused by the 3-year-old playing with a lighter on the couch. The mother, as well as the 9-year-old half-sibling, did advise that the 3-year-old had been known to play with lighters in the past.

Drug paraphernalia was also found in the residence and in the shed attached to the apartment following the fire. These items included glass smoking pipes with methamphetamine residue, a

small glass container with suspected methamphetamine residue, methamphetamines, a butane container, lighters, and a Cobra DVR system. A hair follicle test was completed on the surviving 23-month-old sibling and the 3-year-old sibling which was positive for cocaine, methamphetamines, and amphetamines.

A urinalysis drug screen was requested from the mother following the apartment fire; however, the mother refused to provide one.

Dr. L. Lopez-Morell with the District 1 Office of Medical Examiner completed the autopsy on the 13-month-old child. The manner of death was determined to be inhalation of products of combustion. The cause of death is listed as an accident.

The Pensacola Police Department conducted a criminal investigation that did not result in any charges related to the death of the 13-month-old child.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, Child Protection Investigations in Escambia County closed their investigation with the following findings:

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Finding	Caregiver Responsible
Nova'Lynn Barsh	Death	Verified	Mother
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Mother
	Substance Misuse-Illicit Drugs	Not Substantiated	N/A
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Other Children in the Family

[REDACTED]

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The parents have been involved with the Department through multiple prior investigations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

