

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: [REDACTED]

County: Citrus

Date of Birth: 05/13/2023

Date of Death: 07/31/2023

Report Number: 2023-240654

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
[REDACTED]	11 weeks old	Child Victim
[REDACTED]	2 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	7 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	12 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	16 years old	Sibling
[REDACTED]	18 years old	Adult Sibling
[REDACTED]	51 years old	Paternal Grandmother
[REDACTED]	59 years old	Paternal Grandfather

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On August 1, 2023, a report was received indicating the 11-week-old infant passed away on July 31, 2023, after being found unresponsive by the grandmother.

The infant had been in a court-ordered placement with the paternal grandparents (where the older siblings already resided) since June 7, 2023, and he was receiving ongoing judicial case management services at the time of his death. His placement was due to a report which was received upon the infant's birth the previous month, and which was subsequently closed with verified findings of substance exposed newborn and substance misuse-illicit drugs. The infant's mother was the identified caregiver responsible.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

The grandmother indicated that July 30, 2023 was a normal day for the family. The infant was acting normally and behaving appropriately. The grandmother put the infant to bed at his normal time of approximately 9:00 p.m. The grandmother woke up at approximately 11:30 p.m. to check on the infant and give him another bottle. The grandmother put him back in his bassinet on his back at approximately 11:40 to 11:45 p.m. The grandmother then fell asleep and did not wake up until approximately 5:30 a.m. on July 31, 2023. The grandmother went to check on the infant, who had not and was not making any noise, which was bizarre as he usually woke up crying three to four times in the night. The grandmother found the infant pale, cold, and unresponsive, and

she called 911 at 6:12 a.m. Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services responded to the home and the infant was transported to the hospital.

On July 31, 2023, the infant was pronounced deceased at 7:16 a.m.

The adult sibling declined a drug screen. The grandmother consented to a drug screen and was positive for morphine, oxycodone, amphetamines, and benzodiazepine. The grandmother provided prescriptions for all but morphine and she believed she accidentally took one of the grandfather's pills. The grandfather consented to a drug screen, was positive for oxycodone and benzodiazepine and he is prescribed morphine but does not know why he would not test positive for it.

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of the infant (2023-00007145). No arrests were made, nor charges filed.

The death certificate was received on August 30, 2023, and indicated District 5 Medical Examiner Wendy A. Lavezzi, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for the infant on August 17, 2023. ME# 23-05-1867.

Cause of Death: Undetermined

Manner of Death: Undetermined

On September 11, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- No Indicators of Death and Inadequate Supervision as to the infant.

Other Children in the Family:

The siblings were deemed to be safe and remain in the grandparents' care. Grief counseling information was provided to the family.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family had an open judicial case with Kid's Central, Inc. due to the mother and infant testing positive for cocaine at birth and the infant's subsequent shelter on June 7, 2023.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family has an extensive prior abuse report history with 32 reports from 1992 to 2023. In addition to the verified May 2023 report which was received upon the infant's birth, he has been the subject of one additional investigation while in the grandparents' care. This report, received in June 2023, was closed with no indicators of medical neglect.

Because there was a verified prior abuse report involving the infant within 12 months of the fatality, a Critical Incident Rapid Response Team (CIRRT) conducted an additional review of the family's most recent prior history. The CIRRT team's report can also be located on the department's Child Fatality Prevention website.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

2/19/24

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

2/19/24

Date