

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.

Victim: 1-year-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

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 1-year-old boy died from blunt force injuries following a motor vehicle accident. He lived with his mother. On the day of the fatality, the mother and child had been at a family party for several hours. The mother and child left the party in a vehicle driven by the child's uncle. At some point, the uncle disregarded a traffic signal which resulted in the vehicle being T-boned by another vehicle. The child was seriously injured and later passed away at the hospital. Witnesses reported that prior to the accident, the uncle was observed driving recklessly at a high rate of speed. The mother stated the child had been restrained in a child safety seat in the back seat of the vehicle. Evidence from inside the vehicle suggested that the child's safety seat had not been properly secured to the vehicle. The uncle's blood alcohol content was 0.129, and he tested positive for THC. The mother knew that the uncle had been drinking at the family party and still placed the child in a vehicle being driven by the uncle.