Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Jamaria Sessions

County: Lake

Date of Birth: 01/15/2015

Date of Death: 06/17/2024

Report Number: 2024-209279

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Jamaria Sessions	9 years old	Child Victim
[redacted]	5 years old	Half-Sibling by the Father and his Paramour
[redacted]	6 years old	Sibling
LoJuan Sessions	26 years old	Father
Tyshael Martin	34 years old	Father's Paramour
[redacted]	11 years old	Paramour's Child
[redacted]	16 years old	Paramour's Child
[redacted]	17 years old	Paramour's Child

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On June 17, 2024, a report was received alleging that 9-year-old Jamaria was declared deceased at home, after being found unresponsive by another child in the home.

According to departmental and other available agency case records, the father was released from prison on August 24, 2023, after having served several years of a five year prison sentence for two charges of child neglect, fleeing law enforcement, trafficking of MDMA, and aggravated assault with a weapon with no intent to kill. In October of 2023, he removed two of his children, Jamaria and her 6-year-old sibling, from their maternal grandmother's care in Orange County and moved them into his and his paramour's home in Lake County. Those two children's mother had died of natural causes in September 2022 and the grandmother assumed their care at the time, and was eventually able to gain legal custody through Family Court proceedings. Jamaria's 5-year-old half sibling, whose mother is the father's paramour (and is also the mother to the 11-, 16- and 17-year-old children) already resided in the paramour's/her mother's home. While the father and his paramour were in a romantic relationship and share the one child in common, they were often involved in arguments which resulted in the father leaving the home to stay with his mother in Orange County for long periods of time. He was reportedly still staying in Orange County on the day that Jamaria died.

On June 17, 2024, the department and the Lake County Sheriff's Office completed interviews with the father, his paramour, and the other children in the home. These

interviews, along with other evidence gathered during the course of this joint investigation, revealed the following:

On May 31, 2024, all of the family members, with the exception of the father, went on a seven-day cruise out of Miami to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and the Dominican Republic. Additional members of the paramour's extended family, including her mother from California, were on the trip as well. During the cruise, Jamaria was blamed for a number of alleged behavioral infractions, including checking herself out of the ship's daycare center and wandering around unattended, and flushing some of the paramour's marijuana down the toilet. This resulted in the paramour placing Jamaria in "time out" while still on the cruise.

Following their return home, Jamaria allegedly sprained her ankle by tripping over something in the dark. The paramour reportedly iced the ankle, placed a compression sock/bandage on it, and gave Jamaria an "old crutch" to use. At some point subsequent to this, Jamaria was getting her hair braided by one of the household members when hot water was splashed onto her foot, at which point they removed the compression bandage which resulted in some of the skin coming off with it from the top of her foot. This all allegedly occurred a few days prior to Jamaria's death.

Also, at some point subsequent to the cruise, it was arranged that Jamaria and the paramour's 16-year-old daughter would fly alone to California on June 16, 2024, to stay for a while with the paramour's mother, who is a nurse. This was reportedly so she (the paramour's mother) could work with Jamaria to correct her alleged ongoing behavioral problems. On the day the flight was scheduled, the family woke up at 4:00 a.m. and left the house for the airport at 5:00 a.m. They stopped for gas and snacks on the way, and Jamaria vomited upon their arrival at the airport, after eating a banana. The family members reported they had fallen ill during the cruise and Jamaria had not yet recovered. Jamaria was also weak and couldn't walk (due to her illness and the "sprained ankle"), and when they couldn't find a wheelchair for her, they placed her on a luggage cart and proceeded into the airport. The family was in line to scan their QR code(s) and found out they had missed their flight, in part due to having to tend to Jamaria. The paramour rescheduled their flight for June 25th, and she and other family members denied that she was angry with Jamaria for causing them to miss the flight.

Once back home, the paramour placed Jamaria back into "time out" due to what she had allegedly done on the cruise, as she had been in "time out" since they had returned (which was over a week prior to this). The paramour had Jamaria stand against the wall for hours at a time, and she was only allowed to walk away to use the bathroom, eat, and take a bath. She was also reportedly naked, as she was not allowed to wear clothing, which was a routine occurrence. That evening, the family members (again, with the exception of the father, who still had not returned to the home following his last trip to his mother's home) were in the 5-year-old's bedroom watching television. They were all on the bed, except for Jamaria, who was laying on a toddler-sized mattress on the floor. She was again not wearing any clothing. After watching television, everyone went to their rooms while the paramour stayed with Jamaria. The family then

went to sleep, although no one in the household could provide a time as to when this reportedly happened.

At approximately 4:00 a.m. on June 17, 2024 (although she had allegedly been sleeping in the same room as Jamaria), the paramour woke the other children to have them go check on Jamaria. She was found face down, still on the mattress, and when the 17-year-old child rolled her over, she was observed to no longer be breathing. They called 911 at 4:53 a.m., and Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to the home. EMS arrived at the home at 5:00 a.m. and reached Jamaria at 5:01 a.m. Of note, according to law enforcement, there was forensic evidence of an approximately one hour call between one of the children's cellular/electronic devices and the paramour's mother in California prior to the call to 911, and law enforcement surmised that Jamaria was already deceased at this point, and that this call took place between the paramour and her mother to determine how to handle these circumstances.

On June 17, 2024, Jamaria was pronounced deceased on scene by EMS personnel at 5:03 a.m.

The Senior Child Protective Investigator responded to the scene and met with law enforcement. She observed Jamaria in person as well as viewed photos which had been taken of her body. She observed Jamaria to have an abrasion to the eye lid and forehead, abrasion to the neck with it (her neck) appearing swollen, a "busted" lip, mucous in her nose, healing injuries and old scars all over her body, and a burn to her right foot with some of the skin missing from her ankle to her toes. She was also observed to be completely naked.

On September 4, 2024, the Child Protection Team finalized a Medical Consult as to Jamaria.

Impressions:

- Findings of death due to abuse - the autopsy related death due to multiple injuries to the head, torso, extremities, and thermal injury of the right foot ruling it a homicide.
- Findings of inadequate supervision as a child in the home stated that the child's father gave a minor sibling permission to "whoop" the child with a belt. The father left the child in the home which was an unsafe environment for her.
- Findings of physical abuse – child's injuries are consistent with ongoing physical abuse.
- Findings of medical neglect – the child had a burn on her foot that a reasonable person would have identified as needing medical care which she did not receive.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office investigated Jamaria's death (2024-0065271).
On August 28, 2024, Tyshael Martin was arrested and charged with First Degree Murder, Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child, and Aggravated Child Abuse. On

September 2, 2024, LoJuan Sessions was also arrested and charged with Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child.

The autopsy report was received on September 4, 2024, and indicated District 5 Medical Examiner Rachel A Lange, M.D., completed Jamaria's autopsy on June 18, 2024. ME# 24-05-01442. Her exam yielded the presence of multiple injuries in various stages of healing on her head, neck, torso and extremities, and resulted in the documentation of 22 separate areas containing injuries to her face, three areas on her neck, four areas on her chest, three areas on her abdomen, seven areas on her back, eight areas on her right arm and shoulder, eight areas on her left arm, 12 areas on her right leg and foot (including the burn injury), and 16 areas on her left leg and foot.

Autopsy Findings:

I. Multiple blunt injuries (abrasions, contusions and lacerations), recent and healing of head, torso and extremities:
    a. Probable rhabdomyolysis:
        i. Elevated vitreous creatinine and urea nitrogen
        ii. Myoglobin casts in renal tubules
II. Partial thickness burns of right foot

Cause of Death: Complication of multiple blunt injuries of head, torso and extremities and thermal injury to right foot

Manner of Death: Homicide

On June 4, 2024, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified findings of Death, Physical Injury, Bizarre Punishment, Burns, Medical Neglect, Inadequate Supervision, Environmental Hazards and Failure to Protect as to Jamaria, with Tyshael Martin and LoJuan Sessions as the caregivers responsible;
- [redacted]

Other Children in the Family:

All the remaining children in the home were deemed to be unsafe.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Both parents remain incarcerated at the time of closure.

[redacted].

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The blended family has an extensive prior abuse report history from 1996 to 2019.

[redacted]

[redacted].

[redacted]

Prior to her mother's death, Jamaria was the subject of three investigations received in July 2015 and February 2019 (two reports the same month). The 2015 investigation was closed with no findings of environmental hazards and one of the February 2019 investigations was closed with no findings of sexual abuse-sexual molestation. The second 2019 investigation was closed with not substantiated findings of environmental hazards and no indicators of failure to protect.

The father and the paramour have one prior abuse report together in January 2019, [redacted]

[redacted] These are the charges which resulted in the father's incarceration referenced that was referenced previously in this report. [redacted]



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

6/20/25
Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

6/20/25
Date