Indiana: 2022 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: 5-year-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 4

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 1

Perpetrator: Father

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: Mother, 1

Circumstances: A 5-year-old boy, a 2-year-old girl and a 1-year-old boy died by drowning. They lived with their father. On the evening of the fatality, the father told family members he was taking the children fishing at a lake. While at the lake, the father sat in his car and spoke with a friend on a video call. He showed his friend the children asleep in the car. The father and his friend's final communication was around midnight. At some point, family members reported the father and children missing. A few days later, they were all found deceased in the lake. The car was in neutral when it was pulled from the lake. At the father's autopsy, his blood alcohol content was 0.245%.