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.

Victims: 8-year-old girl, 6-year-old girl, 5-year-old girl

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for Victims: 8-year-old girl, 4; 6-year-old girl, 1; 5-year-old girl, 1

Number of previous substantiated assessments for Victims: 0

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Criminal charges: No; mother deceased

Circumstances: An 8-year-old girl, 6-year-old girl and 5-year-old girl died from inert gas asphyxiation. They lived with their mother. Prior to the fatalities, the father of the children had filed a contempt motion with the court due to the mother not allowing him to see the children. Prior to the court date, the mother sent a suicide letter to the court which prompted a welfare check at the home. Once at the home, law enforcement found the mother and children deceased. The mother had used nitrous gas to kill each of the children and then herself.