Minnesota Safe Passage for Children Child Fatality Report 2022-2023

Name of Child Victim: Oaklee Hirsch

County: Hennepin County

Date of Death: 05/27/2022

Date of Birth: 08/15/2015

Age: 6 years

Adult Perpetrator: Mother

Abuse type: Neglect

Summary:

On May 27, 2022, police officers responded to an overdose call. When they arrived, they observed Oaklee Hirsch, six years old, not breathing and seizing. Life-saving measures were attempted, but Oaklee passed away at the scene.

Officers spoke to Oaklee's mother, who advised that she woke up to find Oaklee, who had slept in her bed, not breathing, and he had vomited. When Officers spoke with Oaklee's father, he advised that he saw a dollar bill around Oaklee's mouth and believed there may have been drug residue on the bill. He had also given Oaklee Narcan, but it did not revive him. When speaking with the Officers in more depth, Oaklee's mother admitted to using fentanyl, which she thought was heroin, within the 48 hours prior. She stated that she had no idea how Oaklee had died besides chewing on the dollar bill that was used for narcotics. Oaklee's grandmother advised that he sometimes chewed on newspaper and sometimes swallowed it. Oaklee's cause of death was confirmed to be acute fentanyl toxicity.

Oaklee's mother was convicted of 2nd-degree felony manslaughter.

Previous History:

Oaklee's mother struggled with SUD and had a few domestic assault charges. However, the family did not have any prior involvement with child protection.