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: 18-day-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

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: An 18-day-old boy died from an undetermined cause with unsafe sleep as a contributing factor. He lived with his parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother woke and found the child unresponsive. He had been sleeping between the mother and an 8-year-old sibling on a twin bed. The mattress leaned to the right, which could have caused the child to roll into his sibling. The 8-year-old said the mother had the child sleep with him when she stayed up late. The mother tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and buprenorphine. The mother created the child's unsafe sleep conditions by placing him to sleep between two people, on a sloping bed, while the mother was impaired, with a pillow and comforter on each side of the child.