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: 1-year-old girl

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: Babysitter

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died from asphyxiation while restrained in a car seat. She lived with her parents. On the day of the fatality, the child was being cared for by an unlicensed babysitter who was watching 32 children by herself. The babysitter routinely had older children place the child to sleep in a car seat. On the day of the child's death, a 7-year-old changed the child's diaper and placed the child in a car seat for her nap. Two hours later, the babysitter asked some older children to get the child, and they found her flipped over in the car seat, unresponsive, with the straps tight and the buckle close to her neck. The car seat the child was in did not belong to the child. While the children napped, the babysitter would routinely lay on a couch in a downstairs living room, where she sometimes fell asleep.