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: 3-year-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: A 3-year-old boy died from blunt-force injuries. He lived with his mother and sibling. On the day of the fatality, the mother was driving with the child in the vehicle. The car was overheating, so she parked at a shopping plaza. The mother and child got out, and the child began to bounce a basketball near the car. The mother got back in the car while the child continued to play outside the vehicle, unsupervised. Surveillance video showed the child wandering away while the mother remained inside the vehicle. He was sitting on his basketball near the road when he was struck by an unknown SUV, which did not stop. The mother stated that, at some point, she yelled for the child and went to look for him. She found him lying on the concrete, unresponsive.