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: 4-year-old girl

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 2

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 2

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 2

Circumstances: A 4-year-old girl died from blunt-force injuries. She lived with her mother and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the mother was driving a go-kart while the child was sitting on her lap. The child was not wearing a helmet. The mother was going approximately 45 mph when she hit a pothole and drove into the back of a parked vehicle. The child died from her injuries a short time later. The mother refused to submit to a drug screen, requiring law enforcement to obtain a search warrant. She tested positive for amphetamine, methamphetamine, THC, fentanyl and norfentanyl.