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-month-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: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Circumstances: A 3-year-old girl and a 3-month-old girl died from smoke inhalation. They lived with their mother and the 3-month-old girl's father. On the night of the fatality, the father was at work and the mother was home with the children. She put the children to bed and left them alone while she went to visit a neighbor. She could not see her home from the neighbor's home. Surveillance video revealed that an explosion occurred, and smoke was seen coming from the home approximately 10 minutes after the mother left. The children died in the fire. The neighbor said the mother brought marijuana to his home, and they were inside when the fire started. The fire marshal determined the fire originated in the living room, but the cause was unknown.