Indiana: 2024 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 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

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrator: Father

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 0

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 3-month-old boy died from drowning. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the parents were at home with the child. The mother stated she was in the bedroom, and the father was in the living room with the child. The mother stated that the father came into the bedroom and hit her several times with a metal tool. The mother stated she heard the father leave the home. When she left the bedroom, she did not see the child, so she assumed the father had taken the child with him. The mother stated she drove herself to the hospital where it was determined she had sustained a skull fracture and brain injuries. The mother stated the father had been sending her messages saying the child was not his. Law enforcement eventually located the father, and he admitted that he assaulted the mother but denied knowing where the child was. Law enforcement searched the family's home, and found the child dead, submerged upside down in a five-gallon bucket of liquid laundry detergent.