Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Ariya Paige

County: Baker

Date of Birth: September 4, 2022

Date of Death: July 19, 2023

Report Number: 2023-228408

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Ariya Paige	10 months	Deceased Child
[redacted]	3	Child cared for by babysitter
[redacted]	3	Child cared for by babysitter
[redacted]	9	Child cared for by babysitter
Rhonda Jewell	46	Babysitter

1. Circumstances Surrounding Death

On July 19, 2023, this 10-month-old infant was found deceased in the babysitter's car.

On July 19, 2023, the babysitter picked up the infant from the infant's home. The babysitter drove to another home and arrived around 8:15am to babysit three other children. The babysitter stated she thought the infant was sleeping so she left her in the car intending to get her later. The babysitter forgot the infant was in the vehicle and left her unattended for 5 hours. The temperature outside was 96 degrees with a heat index of 103 degrees. When the mother of the other children arrived to retrieve her children, it was discovered the infant was still in the vehicle. She called 911. Law Enforcement and EMS arrived and transported the infant to Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital. Despite life-saving efforts, the infant was pronounced deceased at 1:30pm. It was found that the temperature in the vehicle was 133 degrees.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy and determined the cause of death was hyperthermia. The manner of death was determined to be an accident.

The Baker County Sheriff's Office investigated the incident and arrested the babysitter. In November 2023, the babysitter was convicted of third-degree felony murder and leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle. She was sentenced to 15 years in prison for murder and 2 years of prison for child neglect.

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, DCF Baker County Child Protective Investigations closed the investigation on January 12, 2024, with verified findings of death and inadequate supervision with the babysitter being the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family

The other children were deemed safe in the care of their parents.

2. Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The babysitter was not involved in any prior investigations.



Melissa Stanley, MSMFT, MBA, CPP — ***8/14/25***
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist — ***Date***

Racquel Courts — ***8/15/2025***
Racquel Courts — ***Date***
NER Program Manager