Indiana: 2023 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-month-old boy

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

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 1, in Indiana; 1, in Michigan

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Perpetrator: Father, father's girlfriend

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: Father, 0; father's girlfriend, 7

Circumstances: A 4-month-old boy died from acute alcohol intoxication. He lived with his father, siblings, father's girlfriend, father's girlfriend's children and the girlfriend's mother. The night prior to the fatality, the father's girlfriend gave the child a bottle and placed him to sleep. The next morning, the father's girlfriend found the child deceased in a rocking sleeper. The child's toxicology at autopsy was positive for ethanol, with a BAC of 0.115 %. The oldest child residing in the home was an 8-year-old, and several of the children tested positive for THC. The child's bottle tested positive for alcohol. The father stated his girlfriend had previously asked him about giving the child alcohol to calm him down and that he advised her not to. On the day of the fatality, the father and the father's girlfriend submitted to drug screens. The father's drug screen was positive for THC, amphetamine and methamphetamine. The father's girlfriend's drug screen was positive for THC.