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: 5-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

Perpetrator: Father, mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 1, mother and father

Circumstances: A 5-month-old boy died from head injuries. He lived with his parents. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated she placed the child to sleep and left the child in the father's care. The mother stated she was gone for no more than 15 minutes and when she returned, the father checked on the child and found him unresponsive. 911 was called, and the child was transported to the hospital. The child was found to have a skull fracture, brain injuries and retinal hemorrhages. The parents were the only caregivers of the child in the 72 hours prior to the incident, and they provided no explanation as to how the child sustained his injuries.