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: 1-year-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 1-year-old girl died from complications of burn injuries. She lived with her parents and siblings. On the day of the fatality, the father was working while the mother cared for the children. The mother stated she was doing chores around the house while the children played in a shed. The mother stated she heard a noise and when she checked on the children, she observed the child on fire. The mother stated that the children had been in trouble earlier that day because they had been playing with gas jugs and a lighter in the shed. The mother did not secure the gas jugs or lighter and allowed the children to continue playing in the shed unsupervised. The fire marshal concluded that the probable cause of the fire was due to the children playing with a lighter and household combustibles.