# Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

**Person ID:** 107158842

**County of Child's Residence:** SHELBY

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 9 Year(s) 8 Month(s)

**Date of Death:** 03/06/2022

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

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**Child's Name:** Gibson,Joseph

**Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:**

**Intake Date(s):** 03/07/2022

**Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The Department received a report after the deceased child was found hanging in a doorway of his home. Emergency Medical Services responded and removed the child. Family denied deceased child voiced suicidal ideations or depression.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child was playing with a chain around his neck and may have fallen off a chair resulting in an accidental hanging. The deceased child has a diagnosis which needs a high level of supervision. The deceased child's mother left the child with his great grandmother, siblings and cousins. The deceased child's great grandmother has been diagnosed with a medical condition that impairs her ability to care for herself or children. The mother was aware of grandmother's diagnosis when she allowed the deceased child and his siblings to stay with the great grandmother.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy on the deceased child and the final autopsy listed the cause of death as Asphyxiation (Strangulation) and the manner of death as could not be determined.

Law Enforcement completed an investigation and found the child accidently hung himself. There are no charges pending.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department confirmed allegations the deceased child's mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child, which led to the child's death. The mother was aware of the child's need for a high level of supervision and the grandmother's diminished capacity to care for herself or others. This lack of supervision led to the deceased child's death.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/08/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 08/01/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

**Case Action:**

Close

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

Counseling and Evaluation

**Other Services:**

The family was referred to counseling and both the mother and the siblings participated in counseling.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

NA

**If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:**

NA

## Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):**

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

**Investigation Findings:**

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Note: This report was prepared on 03/02/2023 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.