Florida Department of Children and Families
Child Fatality Summary C-15

Child's Name: Nia Williams

County: Palm Beach

Date of Birth: 11/29/2017

Date of Death: 04/28/2025

Family Composition Chart

Report Number: 2025-112904

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Nia Williams	7 years	Decedent
[redacted]	8 years	Half-Sibling
[redacted]	10 years	Half-Sibling
[redacted]	16 years	Half-Sibling
Naikishia Williams	31 years	Mother
[redacted]	62 years	Mother's Ex-Husband/Roommate

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On 04/28/2025, the Department received a report stating that this 7-year-old child was found unresponsive in her home. Resuscitation efforts were attempted, and the child was transported to St. Mary's Medical Center where she was pronounced deceased.

The details surrounding the incident remain unclear. At approximately 8:30pm on the evening of Monday, 4/28/2025, 911 received a call from the mother stating that the child was not breathing and the mother believed she ingested drugs/medications. The mother initially provided a statement stating that the child and siblings were left with the mother's ex-husband from Saturday, 4/26/2025 to Monday, 4/28/2025. Inconsistent statements were provided and the mother made herself unavailable for interviews with law enforcement and DCF. Soon after the child's death, it was discovered that the child had extensive internal injuries to her abdominal region, and the cause of death was blunt force trauma.

A witness stated that the mother had stomped on the child's stomach while the child was lying on the floor on both the Thursday night prior to the incident and again on the night of the incident.

The child had attended school on the Friday prior to the incident and went to the nurse's office complaining of a stomach ache. The child threw up in the nurse's office. The nurse attempted to contact the mother several times, but since she could not reach her, the nurse was unable to examine/treat the child as the school did not have a signed consent form from the mother. The child spent the day in the nurse's office and was sent home at the end of school after which she walked home with her sister. The child did not attend school on the day of the incident.

The home was observed to be dirty, with an infestation of cockroaches, food, trash and clutter littered the floors, and furniture was overturned in the home.

The mother tested positive for marijuana.

The Palm Beach County Medical Examiner's Office performed an autopsy and determined that the cause of death is "Blunt Force Trauma to the Abdomen" and the manner of death is "Homicide." The injury occurred by "She was impacted on the abdomen." The autopsy revealed multiple injuries including a liver laceration, diaphragm contusion, mesentery soft tissue tears with associated peritonitis, left ear epithelial ulcer of unknown origin, contusions to the body surface, and probable viral pneumonia in right lung.

The Riviera Beach Police Department has jurisdiction over this case. The criminal investigation concluded that a crime occurred. On 6/26/2025, the mother was arrested for 1st degree murder and aggravated child abuse. The criminal court case was ongoing at the time the DCF investigation was closed.

Based on the information indicated above, the report was closed with "verified" findings of the following maltreatments: death, bizarre punishment, burns, environmental hazards, internal injuries, medical neglect, mental injury, failure to protect, threatened harm, physical injury, and substance misuse-illicit drugs.

Other Children in the Family

The siblings were removed from the mother's care and placed with relatives. [redacted]

Current DCF Involvement at the Time of the Incident

At the time of the incident, there was an open investigation involving the family. On 4/2/2025, a report was received due to concerns that the mother was physically abusing the 7-year-old.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family has an extensive history with the Department. There are six prior reports involving the child and her siblings from 2017 to 2024. These reports show a pattern of concerns involving physical injury, bone fracture, household violence, inadequate supervision, medical neglect and substance misuse by the mother. Two of these reports were closed with verified findings in 2017 and 2021 and in both cases the children were removed from the mother and placed in out of home care. In the 2021 report, this child had unexplained bone fractures for the second time in a 9-month span, and various explanations were provided which resulted in the second removal from the home. The mother completed case plans during both prior dependency cases and the children were last reunified with the mother in April 2024.

[redacted]

Tausha Schreiber 06/25/2026

Tausha Schreiber, Child Fatality Prevention Specialist **Date**

Katherine E. Browder 06/25/2026

Katherine Browder, Operations & Mgmt. Consultant Mgr. **Date**
For Denise Foster, Region Program Manager