

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Aiden Hutchins

County: Polk

Date of Birth: 10/23/2012

Date of Death: 08/27/2023

Report Number: 2023-270101

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Aiden Hutchins	10 years old	Child Victim (deceased)
Hannah Griner	19 years old	Adult-Sibling (deceased)
Brandy Hutchins	43 years old	Mother (deceased)

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On August 28, 2023, a report was received indicating the 10-year-old child and 19-year-old adult sibling passed away after being shot by their mother in an apparent murder-suicide on August 27, 2023.

According to law enforcement, the following information was provided.

The Detective with the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) advised there had been an ongoing custody battle between the child's mother and father, who resides in Maine. Per the court order the mother was to have custody of the child during the majority of the year and the father was to have custody during the summer months. The mother refused to send the child to the father this summer, the exact reasoning is unknown. The mother has alleged abuse by the father in Maine in the past, which was unfounded. The father obtained an attorney in Florida and filed paperwork for an emergency court hearing due to the mother not sending the child to Maine for the summer.

On August 24, 2023, the mother was ordered to turn the child over to the father by 6:00 p.m. on August 25, 2023. A meeting for the exchange was scheduled at the PCSO Southeast Substation, but the mother did not show. The father contacted law enforcement and a missing child report was filed. A friend of the father's posted on Facebook about the missing child situation and the mother.

This post was seen on August 27, 2023, by a friend of the mother's, whose son was dating the 19-year-old adult sibling. The mother, the child, and the adult sibling were all at this friend's home at the time she saw the post. After the friend saw the post, she left her home to notify law enforcement that they were at her home. Law enforcement responded to the home at approximately 12:30 p.m., knocked on the door, and heard three gunshots. The mother shot both of her children in the back of the head, turned the

gun on herself, and committed suicide. It is unknown where she obtained the firearm from.

Polk County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received a call on August 27, 2023, at 12:58:44 p.m., unit was dispatched at 12:59:59 p.m., en route at 13:00:11 p.m. and arrived on scene at 13:10:42 p.m. making contact with the victim at 13:11:00. The EMS report states, *"The crew responded to a call for a 10-year-old male on August 27, 2023 at 12:59:59 p.m. to [REDACTED], Lake Wales. The complaint received by the dispatch was stab/gunshot wound/penetrating trauma (emergent). The unit response was emergent (immediate response). The primary impression of the provider -obvious death. The patient's complaint location is the head region. The patient's initial acuity was dead without resuscitation efforts (black). It appears the patient was possibly injured. It appears the injury was caused by the following factors: Handgun. 10 y/o male found face down in middle of bed in between 2 other victims. Patient found in bedroom to far left of residence from front entrance. patient had obvious gunshot wound to posterior of head. no other obvious injuries noted. PCSO on scene prior to our arrival. pronounced deceased at 13:10 by battalion 5."*

On August 27, 2023, Aiden Hutchins, Hannah Griner, and Brandy Hutchins were pronounced deceased on scene at 1:10 p.m.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Aiden Hutchins (23-35087). Their case was closed as a murder/suicide.

The death certificate was received on September 5, 2023, and indicated District 10 Medical Examiner Daniel F. Garavan, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for Aiden Hutchins on August 29, 2023. ME# 2310FA601.

Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of the Head

Manner of Death: Homicide

On October 23, 2023, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Findings of Death, Physical Injury, Inadequate Supervision, and Household Violence Threatens Child as to Aiden Hutchins, with Brandy Griner as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

Grief counseling information was provided to the extended family.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The child does not have any prior abuse report history, but the mother has one report in 2007 regarding the adult sibling..



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

11/2/23

Date



Central Region Director of Child Protection
Stephanie Weis

11/2/23

Date