Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 107438762

County of Child's Residence: MONTGOMERY

Gender: Male

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

Date of Death: 03/23/2025

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.

Child's Name: Dean,Austin

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 03/23/2025, 03/23/2025, 03/23/2025 - three reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received several reports that the deceased child, the deceased child's mother, and siblings were involved in a single car accident. The child and one of his siblings did not survive. The other siblings were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The mother seemed to be under the influence of alcohol and as a result, the mother was detained by law enforcement.

The Department's investigation determined that the child, the child's mother, and siblings were involved in a single-car rollover crash. At the scene, the mother appeared to be intoxicated, and several empty alcohol cans were found inside the vehicle. Her blood alcohol level was measured at .214 percent, well above Texas's legal limit of .08 percent. She was more than two and a half times over the legal threshold. Three siblings survived the accident. One had cuts on her neck and arm. The second sibling suffered multiple scrapes, a broken collarbone, head cuts, and a traumatic brain injury. He also had a compression fracture, a small tear in his spleen, a collapsed lung, and injuries to both eyes. The third sibling had a scrape on her cheek, a bruise on her right shoulder, and another on her left shin. It was also discovered that the mother had a prior Driving While Intoxicated conviction earlier in 2024.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but final results were still pending when the Department's investigation closed. The preliminary results disclosed that the cause of death would most likely be ruled as head trauma and the manner of death would be accidental.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, and the mother was arrested and charged with two counts of

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed that the mother committed neglectful supervision and physical abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

The Department confirmed that the mother committed neglectful supervision and physical abuse of the deceased sibling, which led to the sibling's death.

The Department confirmed that the mother committed neglectful supervision and physical abuse of the three surviving siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/23/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 04/09/2025: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Legal Services

Other Services:

The family agreed to services offered as part of the legal Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the three surviving siblings who were placed with family members.

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:

Not applicable.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/06/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that the mother and father left the deceased child and siblings at home alone for about twenty to thirty minutes. As a result, the mother and father were arrested for child endangerment.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child and siblings did not show any signs of being abused or neglected. The mother had to run an errand at the store and left the children home alone. When law enforcement arrived, they couldn't get in through the front door because the children didn't open it. Instead, officers had to enter through a window. The children didn't open the door because they knew not to do so when their parents weren't home. The father was taken into custody for an unrelated warrant. The children appeared to be unharmed, with no bruises or marks visible.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 04/08/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 07/27/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family agreed to accept services and referrals provided, to include worker role-modeling.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/30/2022

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns that the neighbor could hear children screaming from the residence. Law enforcement responded to the home and observed the home to have roaches, trash, dirty clothes, and food everywhere. It was noted that the mother and father have drug history but neither parent

appeared intoxicated.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child and siblings did not make any outcries of abuse or neglect. The home was clean and well-organized, providing a safe space for their growth. Dirt was visible on the floor and in the kitchen sink, but no dangerous or harmful items were found inside the house. The family had enough food, shelter, and clothing to meet the children's basic needs.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the mother and father committed physical neglect of the deceased child and his siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/02/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 09/22/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family agreed to accept services and referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/09/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns that the deceased child made an outcry that his mother and father have been selling drugs from their home and doing drugs while locking him and his siblings out of the home for five hours with nothing to eat or drink.

The Departments investigation determined that the family was not able to be located. The family was placed on a child safety check alert list.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to complete the investigation to determine if the mother and father committed neglectful supervision and physical neglect of the deceased child and one of his siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Not applicable as family could not be located.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/30/2023

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns about the children's health. It was unclear if there was enough food at home. A strong, unpleasant smell was coming from the house. There were worries about domestic violence between the mother and father, which had led to his arrest before. There were also concerns surrounding the father using illegal substances.

The Departments investigation determined that none of the children made any outcries of abuse or neglect. Both the mother and father denied that domestic violence was present in the home. The father also said he does not use drugs and has never threatened anyone, noting that he and the apartment manager have been friends for more than ten years. The parents said there was enough food in the house. The mother mentioned a woman often left food on their porch, but she would take it back to the woman's porch because they didn't need it. The father refused to take a drug test. The mother said she took her drug test, but the department never received the results.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the mother and father committed physical neglect and neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/06/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals were provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 12/08/2024, 12/8/2024 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received two reports with concerns about the children in the care of their mother. The mother had vanished with the children for several months before returning to live with the paternal grandmother. The father was recently taken into custody for possession of drugs. There were concerns an uncle had sexual abused one of the children and that the home was filled with drugs, including pills and cocaine that were left out in the open.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother and children lived in an extended stay motel, and they did not reside with the paternal grandmother. The father did not reside with the mother and children. The deceased child and siblings were observed to be clean and free of any marks or bruises. The deceased child and siblings were forensically interviewed, and no outcry of abuse or neglect was made. The paternal uncle who did not reside in the family home was interviewed and denied sexually abusing any of the children. The mother declined to complete a home assessment.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm that the mother, father and paternal grandmother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his siblings.

The Department did not confirm that the mother and paternal grandmother committed physical neglect of the deceased child and his siblings.

The Department did not confirm that the paternal uncle committed sexual abuse of the deceased child and his siblings.

The Department did not confirm that an unknown individual committed sexual abuse of the deceased child and his siblings.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/08/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family declined to accept any services and referrals offered or requested by the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought legal intervention for aid to investigate as the mother refused a home assessment, however this was denied.

The Department's investigation was closed.

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 05/12/2026 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.