Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 101255643

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 8 Year(s) 6 Month(s)

Date of Death: 02/15/2025

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: Walker,Charles

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/10/2025, 02/26/2025 - two reports merged into single investigation

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child was brought to the hospital and after being found unresponsive by his 17-year-old sibling and her paramour, who would be 18 in a week. The child was found to have bruising on both legs, bruising on his right arm, old bruising on his groin area, red dots under his eyes, and a brain bleed. The child also had broken ribs from a prior incident that were healing. A subsequent report was received with concerns the child's mother and father were using drugs and had dropped of the child and sibling off at the grandmother's, knowing the grandmother could barely take care of herself. The report also stated that while residing at the paramour's, the paramour three the child against the wall, kicked him, and caused his death.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child went to live with his maternal grandmother three weeks prior to the incident due to some family conflict between the child's father and paternal uncle as well as the sibling wanting to spend time with her brother. The child's sibling had been residing with the maternal grandmother since 2022. The child's mother and father were unaware that the grandmother had allowed the sibling to live with her paramour and were also unaware that the grandmother allowed the child to reside at the paramour's as well soon after his arrival. The grandmother lied to the mother and father and told them the children were fine and watching movies when they called to check on the child. The grandmother saw bruises on the child during a brief encounter but still allowed the child to reside with his sibling and the paramour. She admitted to having concerns the paramour was abusing the child but took no action. When interviewed by law enforcement, the sibling stated that her paramour did not believe the child was going to school and that he needed to be taught discipline. She observed her paramour hit the child on the hand and legs with a belt, flick him in the arms, and pick him up by the arms when the paramour was

upset with the child or thought the child was not listening to his instructions. She also stated there were times when her paramour would tell her to leave the room so he could discipline the child, and she would leave. The sibling also stated she saw bruises on the child's arms, face, and neck and that she even took pictures of them to have a record of it on her phone. On the day of the incident, she was in another room and heard her paramour tell the child to stop lying and the child calling out her name. The paramour then asked her to bring him water and when she entered the room, the child was unresponsive. The paramour was interviewed by law enforcement but did not make any admissions of abuse or neglect towards the child. The paramour declined to speak to the Department. Medical staff confirmed that the child had sustained numerous injuries to include traumatic brain injury with skull fracture, subdural hemorrhage, brain bleeds, fractured ribs, bruising to his head, trunk, extremities, and inguinal areas and petechiae to indicate he may have been strangled. The injuries were consistent with physical abuse with consideration of child torture given the severity of the injuries. The child did not recover and passed away after a few days at the hospital.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy however the final report was not available at the time the Department's investigation was closed.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still ongoing at the time the Department's investigation closed. The paramour was arrested and charged with Injury to a Child to Cause Serious Bodily Injury.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the sibling's paramour committed physical abuse of the deceased child, which led to the child's death.

The Department confirmed the sibling committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

The Department did not confirm the child's mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the 17-year-old sibling.

The Department was unable to determine if the child's mother, father, and maternal grandmother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 02/11/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 02/12/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
3.) 05/30/2025: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals were provided by the Department however the family had sought counseling services in the community.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

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.

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.