# Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

**Person ID:** 117436851

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

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 12 Year(s) 6 Month(s)

**Date of Death:** 07/13/2025

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.

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**Child's Name:** Davis,Messiah

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

**Intake Date(s):** 07/14/2025

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

The Department received a report stating on 07/13/2025 the deceased child and his 9-year-old sibling were playing hide and seek inside the home and there was no adult supervision as the rest of the family were outside participating in a barbeque. The deceased child's sibling was hiding in the bedroom and when the deceased child entered the room, he brushed against a pump action rifle stored against the wall. The firearm discharged striking the deceased child in the head. The nature of the injury appears inconsistent with the story provided as the entry wound was seen on the ?top of the head.?

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child and his siblings resided with their mother in a home on the same property as another home where three unrelated home members resided. The deceased child's mother allowed the children to go to the second home without her supervision, even with the knowledge these home members were felons and there was a weapon in the home (she claimed to have seen it previously). The incident occurred in the room belonging to the 54-year-old unrelated home member, who stated the children often went into his room, would stay the night in his care, and he would take them to the store. None of the unrelated home members claimed ownership of the gun. It was also determined the deceased child's mother was actively using drugs while providing care to her children and was under the influence at the time the Department made contact with her regarding the incident.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy. The final report was still pending at the time the Department's investigation was closed. Preliminary findings indicated the cause of death to be shotgun wound of the head with the

manner of death being homicide.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still ongoing at the time the Department's investigation was closed. They reported the gun shot residue test results showed the 9-year-old sibling did not fire the weapon and there was DNA found belonging to the deceased child on the trigger housing. Law enforcement was not considering criminal charges for the deceased child's mother.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to his death.

The Department did not confirm that the deceased child's mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the 54-year-old unrelated home member committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and his 9-year-old sibling.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child's four siblings, ages 1, 9, 10, and 14.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/14/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 11/10/2025: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

**Case Action:**

Removal/Subcare

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

Day Care,Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training,Basic Needs Support,Medical Resources/Assessment,Legal Services

**Other Services:**

The family accepted services and referrals offered.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child's four surviving siblings. A fifth sibling, age 17, and her child, were residing in the home but were out of state at the time of the incident. The Department was unable to locate these children so placed them on the Child Safety Check Alert List.

**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.