Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 117536397

County of Child's Residence: HARRIS

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 5 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/01/2025

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: Shields,Ja'Kari

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 07/26/2025, 07/26/2025, 07/26/2025 - three reports merged into single investigation.

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received three reports after Emergency Medical Services responded to the home and found the deceased child unresponsive. The deceased child was taken to the hospital and was found to have a brain bleed. The deceased child regained pulse after 47 minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The deceased child's mother reported the deceased child was fine when she left the child with the deceased child's father and went to the maternal grandmother's residence across the street. The father contacted the mother about an hour and a half later stating something was wrong with the child. The mother went back to the home and found the deceased child unresponsive. The reports also indicated the father told several stories of what occurred. There was also concern for sexual abuse of the deceased child and older half-sibling as the deceased child was found unresponsive with no clothes or diaper on.

The Department's investigation determined that the father gave several stories about the deceased child slipping from his arms to the floor; that the child hit his head on the doorway as the father took him into the bathroom; and that he threw the deceased child onto the mattress on the floor and the child bounced off and landed on the hard floor. The deceased child's father stated he would smoke marijuana around the child and would get aggravated with the deceased child when he wasn't smoking. The deceased child's mother reported she had seen the father shake the deceased child and told him not to do it, but she never contacted law enforcement or the Department and did not remove the deceased child from the father, allowing him to still care for the deceased child. The deceased child's treating physician stated the deceased child had two subdermal hematomas, brain swelling, and retinal hemorrhages, which are all consistent with significant acceleration/ deceleration motion. The deceased child was unable to recover

and passed on 08/01/2025. There was no evidence to confirm the sexual abuse concerns. The deceased child's 2-year-old half sibling was medically evaluated and no concerns or injuries noted.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy however the final report was still pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The medical examiner did confirm the deceased child sustained non-accidental head trauma and there was an old injury to the child's scalp that was about two weeks old.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation however no charges had been filed at the time the Department's investigation closed as they were waiting for the final autopsy report.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother and father committed physical abuse of the deceased child, which led to his death.

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

The Department did not confirm the father committed sexual abuse of the deceased child or the deceased child's older half-sibling.

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

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 07/26/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 08/06/2025: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Medical Resources/Assessment,Legal Services

Other Services:

The deceased child's mother accepted services and referrals offered, to include counseling and early childhood screening, as well as services provided as part of the Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department initiated a safety plan regarding contact between the mother and father and the children. The Department then sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child's half-sibling, who was placed in a foster home.

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.