Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Timothy Smith, Jr.

County: Pinellas

Date of Birth: 10/25/2023

Date of Death: 7/25/2024

Report Number: 2024-248603

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Timothy Smith, Jr.	9 months	Deceased
Desiree Rentz	31 years	Caregiver/Unlicensed Daycare Owner

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on July 25, 2024, concerning the death of 9-month-old Timothy Smith, Jr., after he was discovered unresponsive while attending an unlicensed daycare. The infant resided in a separate location with his parents and an older sibling.

Ms. Rentz explained that she had a passion for caring for children and that she owned and had been running a licensed home daycare for approximately three years. She advised there were several minors enrolled in her daycare, including Timothy. Additionally, she cared for six minor nieces and nephews, who also resided in her home during the summer months, along with an adult niece. The home that was being used as a daycare center was a small one bedroom apartment, and there were approximately 13 children in the home, ranging from infants to teenagers.

Regarding the allegations, Ms. Rentz advised the Child Protective Investigator (CPI) that Timothy was dropped off at her home around 7:30 a.m. on July 25, 2024, and once there, she placed him on the floor and allowed him to crawl around and interact with the other children. She recalled feeding the children breakfast around 8:30 a.m., then they had story time. Around 10:45 a.m. she fed Timothy a bottle and burped him. A short time later her teenage niece placed him supine on the living room couch, with a pillow underneath his head and a blanket on his body. The infant reportedly became fussy, so he was placed on his stomach moments later and subsequently fell asleep with the blanket partially covering his face. The other daycare children also napped around this time. Of note, Ms. Rentz explained that Timothy was teething, so she administered Tylenol prior to his nap. The children began stirring around 1:15 p.m.; however, Timothy did not. The teenage niece checked on Timothy a short time later and noticed that he was not breathing, so she brought him to Ms. Rentz, who attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation, then called 911. Paramedics arrived on scene a short time later and transported Timothy to John Hopkins All Children's Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased at 2:35 p.m.

Ms. Rentz agreed to complete a presumptive drug screen, and her results were negative for any substances. She did not appear visibly impaired at the onset of the investigation.

Early in the investigation it was discovered that Ms. Rentz daycare was in fact unlicensed, and she was instructed to cease caring for the children. Additionally, the parents of the children she was caring for were advised that the daycare was unlicensed and Ms. Rentz could no longer be able to provide care.

Contact was completed with Timothy's parents, who advised that the infant had been attending the daycare for approximately two weeks prior to his death. They did not know the caregiver personally but became aware of her daycare through a family friend. They believed the daycare was reputable and they had no prior concern for the care their son received. The infant was described as healthy, overall, and he had no known medical conditions.

Dr. K. Imperatore with the District Six (Pinellas and Pasco Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy on the infant. His cause of death was listed as complications of combined drug intoxication and his manner of death was deemed a homicide (ingested chlorpheniramine and dextromethorphan and placed prone on couch).

The St. Petersburg Police Department conducted the criminal investigation concerning the infant's death. The caregiver ultimately admitted that she administered "Tylenol PM," prior to his nap, adding that the medication was given to help with teething and to help Timothy sleep. Tylenol PM is not age appropriate for an infant, and the ingredients in that medication are what led to the infant's death. In June 2025, Ms. Rentz was subsequently arrested on charges of aggravated manslaughter and misrepresentation of a childcare license resulting in death. The criminal court case remains ongoing at closure of the Child Protective Investigation.

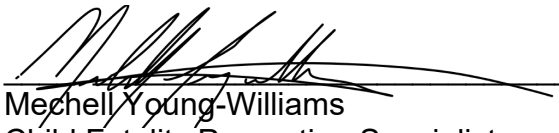
Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, Child Protective Investigations in Pinellas County closed their investigation with verified findings of the death, inadequate supervision, and substance misuse maltreatments.

Other Children in the Family

Grief counseling resources were offered to the decedent's family, and they declined the need for any services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There are no prior investigations involving the decedent or the caregiver as an adult or caregiver. [redacted]



1/30/2026

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Date

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01-30-2026

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Date