Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Kayesme Fields

County: Duval

Date of Birth: April 15, 2021

Date of Death: October 6, 2024

Report Number: 2024-290629

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Kayesme Fields	3	Deceased Child
[redacted]	1	Sibling
[redacted]	2	Sibling
[redacted]	5	Sibling
Kayla Wiggins	25	Mother (Also Deceased)

1. Circumstances Surrounding Death

On October 6, 2024, this three-year-old toddler and mother died in a vehicle accident.

The fatality occurred during an open investigation. The original report was received on 8/31/2024 when the mother had given birth to a baby [redacted] The other children were placed under a safety plan with the mother and a family friend on 8/31/2024 due to the mother's substance misuse. During the open plan, the mother and children moved in with the maternal grandmother which non-compliant with the safety plan as there were concerns that the grandmother's home may not be safe.

On 9/1/2024, an additional report came in with the same allegations [redacted] No maltreatments were added.

On 9/22/2024, an additional report came in [redacted] The report also alleged that the mother had brought the children to the grandmother's home and stated that she didn't want the children. [redacted] On 9/22/2024 the safety plan was changed to have the children reside with a non-relative caregiver; however, the caregiver allowed the mother to take the children back to the grandmother's house a few days later.

On 10/5/2024, the Child Protective Investigator (CPI) spoke to the mother and the mother stated that the children were safer with the grandmother and then disconnected the phone call. Later, some collaterals stated that there were concerns the non-relative caregiver was physically and sexually abusive to the mother and the children. The grandmother confirmed the children, and mother had been with her for most of the prior month. The grandmother been the primary caregiver during this time.

Later that day, the mother went to the grandmother's home around 9:00pm stating that someone was after her. The mother stated she had law enforcement escort her to the home, though the grandmother never saw or spoke to law enforcement. The mother told the grandmother she was taking the children to Georgia. The grandmother reported no knowledge of anyone that the

mother knows in Georgia. The grandmother tried to get the mother to let the children stay, but the mother was adamant on taking the children with her. The mother then left the home with the children and without their car seats. The grandmother did not notify the Department or Law Enforcement to intervene. Around 11:30pm, the mother called the grandmother and left an incoherent voicemail. Around 2:15am, the mother texted a friend stating that she needed gas. The friend asked the mother where she was, and the mother never responded.

On 10/6/2024 at approximately 2:25am the mother was traveling the wrong way on Interstate 95 by the Pecan Park exit when she struck another vehicle. None of the children were restrained. EMS arrived and declared the mother deceased on the scene. The children were transported to UF Health. Despite life-saving efforts, the toddler was pronounced deceased at 3:18am. [redacted]

The grandmother reported that the mother had been very depressed since the birth of the baby and had started cutting herself and was having self-hate talk and making suicidal statements. This information was not reported to anyone.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy on the toddler and determined the cause of death as diffuse axonal injury of brain and craniocervical dislocation blunt impact to head. The manner of death was an accident.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy on the mother and determined the cause of death as atlantoaxial dislocation blunt impact to head. The manner of death was an accident. The toxicology report revealed the mother was positive for nicotine, cotinine, Delta-9, amphetamine, and methamphetamine. A baggie with substances was also found in her bra.

The grandmother reported that the mother used crystal methamphetamine in the past and she believes the mother started using it again based on the mother's behavior that night. Collaterals also reported the mother had previously abused drugs.

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) investigated the incident and closed their case without pursuing criminal charges since the mother was deceased.

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, DCF Duval County Child Protective Investigations closed the investigation on June 10, 2025, with verified findings of death inadequate supervision, physical injury and substance misuse-illicit drugs, and no indicators of abandonment and sexual abuse-battery regarding the toddler. The mother was the responsible caregiver for verified maltreatments.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted].

Other Children in the Home

The child had three siblings at the time of death. They were deemed safe and placed in the care of their father.

2. Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family has been a part of seven prior investigations starting in 2019 [redacted] In addition, there were reported concerns for household violence threatens child, inadequate supervision, environmental hazards, physical injury and medical neglect. Investigations were closed with not substantiated findings or no indicators.

[redacted].

Melissa Stanley, MSMFT, MBA — ***1/5/2026***
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist — ***Date***

Racquel Courts — ***1/13/2026***
Racquel Courts — ***Date***
NER Program Manager