Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Jake Joseph

County: Collier

Date of Birth: 12/7/2010

Date of Death: 9/13/2024

Report Number: 2024-307671

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Jake Joseph	13 years	Decedent
Jeannine Mathurin	57 years	Mother
[redacted]	1 month	Paternal Niece
[redacted]	13 months	Paternal Niece
Walner Nelson	24 years	Adult Sibling
[redacted]	20 years	Nonrelative

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on September 13, 2024, concerning the death of 13-year-old Jake after he sustained fatal injuries when his family was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The teen resided in the home with his mother, and adult sibling, Walner Nelson. Additionally, Mr. Nelson's paramour and their two children also lived in the residence.

According to Mr. Nelson, he and several family members prepared to drop off an aunt at a relative's home in Naples on the morning of September 13, 2024. At that time, Mr. Nelson was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe, and he advised that the seating arrangements were as follows: the aunt was seated in the passenger seat, the paramour and infant were in the second row, and Jake was in the third row with the toddler. The youngest two children were secured in car seats and Jake was believed to be unrestrained in the third row of the vehicle. After dropping the aunt off, Mr. Nelson began driving towards the family's home in Immokalee, and at some point, he lost control of the vehicle and crashed into two parked vehicles, then he collided with a building. Bystanders called 911 and first responders arrived on scene a short time later. Mr. Nelson's paramour did not survive the accident, and she was pronounced deceased at the scene. The other vehicle occupants were transported to various hospitals for medical attention. Mr. Nelson and his children were treated for nonlife threatening injuries. However, Jake sustained significant injuries and was airlifted to Gulf Coast Medical Center – Fort Myers, in Lee County. Despite medical intervention, he was unable to recover, and he was pronounced deceased at 11:50 a.m.

While Mr. Nelson was being evaluated in the hospital, medical professionals drew a sample of his blood for testing. Testing revealed that his blood alcohol content was approximately 0.167.

Dr. S. Thomas with the District 21 (Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on Jake. His cause of death is listed as blunt impact injuries of the head and torso due to a motor vehicle accident, and his manner of death was deemed an accident.

Dr. A. Minyard with the Collier County Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the paramour. Her cause of death is listed as multiple blunt force injuries, and her manner of death was also deemed an accident.

The Florida Highway Patrol conducted the criminal investigation concerning the incident. Records note that Mr. Nelson was intoxicated and driving at a high rate of speed, when he lost control of the vehicle while changing lanes. That vehicle ultimately came to rest when it crashed into a building. Mr. Nelson was subsequently arrested on multiple charges to include two counts of driving under the Influence (DUI) causing serious bodily injury, two counts of DUI manslaughter, two counts of vehicular homicide, two counts of reckless driving, and DUI with damage to person or property. He remains incarcerated at the time of this report writing and the criminal judicial case is ongoing.

Based on the interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, Child Protective Investigations in Collier County closed their investigation with the following findings:

Child	Identified Maltreatment	Findings	Caregiver Responsible
Jake	Death	Verified	Walner Nelson
	Inadequate Supervision	Verified	Walner Nelson
	Substance Misue - Alcohol	Verified	Walner Nelson
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Other Children in the Family

The Child Protection Team (CPT) examined the infant and toddler, and they opined positive findings of neglect, as Mr. Nelson was intoxicated when he was involved in a high speed collision that led to two deaths.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

There are no prior investigation involving Jake, the infant, or the toddler, and no investigations involving Mr. Nelson or his paramour as caregivers.

[redacted]

Mechell Young-Williams
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
SunCoast Region

1-12-2026
Date

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01-12-2026
Date