Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Eria'Naisjah Perry **County:** Lee

Date of Birth: 1/29/2020 **Date of Death:** 10/8/2024

Report Number: 2024-337830

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Eria'Naisjah Perry	4 years	Deceased
Ja'Ne Seawright	46 years	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

An investigation was received on October 8, 2024, concerning the hospitalization and subsequent death of 4-year-old Eria'Naisjah, who was discovered unresponsive in the bathtub, where she was left unattended while bathing. The household consisted of the child and the mother.

According to the mother, she was planning to travel out of town on the evening of October 7, 2024, in preparation for Hurricane Milton. She advised that she was making a meal and while the food was cooking, she placed Eria'Naisjah inside a large black storage container, which was inside the family's bathtub. She then filled the container half with water and began bathing her daughter. Of note, the mother routinely bathed the child in a plastic storage container as there was visible rust in the bathtub. At some point during the bath the mother stepped out of the bathroom for several minutes while she went to the kitchen to check on the food. When she returned to the bathroom, the child was still inside the storage container, but she was now laying on her side, with her face submerged in the water, and she was unresponsive. The mother immediately pulled her daughter from the water and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation, then moments later she called 911. Law enforcement was first to arrive on scene and once at the home they took over resuscitative efforts. Once paramedics arrived, they transported the child to a local hospital, where she was stabilized prior to being transported to Golisano Children's Hospital for a higher level of care. Due to the severity of her condition, Eria'Naisjah was placed on life support; however, her prognosis was poor, and she was not expected to recover. She was subsequently pronounced deceased on October 8, 2024, at 9:24 a.m.

At the time of the death incident the family was renting an apartment. Records note that the outside of the home appeared rundown, and the interior of the home was cluttered with clothing, toys, and various other items spread about. The home had an adequate amount of food for the family and the mother had diapers, clothing, and other supplies for the child.

Eria'Naisjah had several medical diagnoses, including Angelman Syndrome, which is a rare genetic disorder that affects brain development and causes delayed speech, seizures, and a happy demeanor. She was also diagnosed with a global developmental delay, and she had a history of febrile seizures. Additionally, the child had a diagnosis of Spastic Diplegia, a type of cerebral palsy that affects the legs, causing them to be stiff and contracted, and she also walked on her toes ("tiptoes") and wore leg braces to help manage/correct the condition. The child was enrolled in school where she received various therapies, and she was regularly followed by a pediatric neurologist.

The mother completed a presumptive drug screen, and her results were negative for any substances. There were no concerns that the mother was visibly impaired at the onset of the investigation.

Dr. N. Alemar Hernandez with the District 21 (Lee, Hendry Glades Counties) Medical Examiner's Office conducted the autopsy on the child. The cause of death was determined as anoxic brain injury following cardiopulmonary resuscitation due to submersion in water, due to probable seizure associated with Angelman Syndrome, and the manner as an accident.

The Fort Myers Police Department conducted the criminal investigation concerning the child's death. Law enforcement advised that there were no signs of foul play, and the death appeared accidental. The criminal case was resolved with no action taken.

Based on interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, Child Protective Investigations in Lee County closed their investigation with verified findings of the death and inadequate supervision maltreatments, and not substantiated findings of environmental hazards.

Other Children in the Family

The mother has no other children. She later relocated to the home of the maternal grandmother and the maternal great aunt for additional support. Individual and grief counseling resources were provided to the family.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The mother has a significant child welfare history dating back to 2002, [redacted]
Concerning the decedent, the mother was involved in two investigations in 2020. The first investigation occurred in June 2020, and it alleged that the mother was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, but she was not taking her medications, which led to her displaying concerning behaviors. The mother was minimally cooperative with the investigations; however, sources familiar with the family were interviewed and they expressed no concerns for child safety. That investigation resulted in no indictors of inadequate supervision or substance misuse alcohol, and the mother denied having any

service needs. The second and most recent investigation occurred in November 2020, with concerns of household violence, after the mother and her paramour (at that time) engaged in a verbal altercation that turned physical. Both adults acknowledged that an argument occurred but denied that it resulted in a physical altercation, and the pair subsequently terminated their relationship. No apparent safety concerns were identified during that investigation, and it was later closed with not substantiated findings of household violence threatens child. The family was not connected to any services during this investigation.



10/16/2025

Mechell Young-Williams
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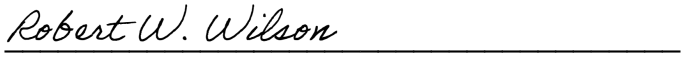
SunCoast Region

Date



10-16-2025

Robert Wilson
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Date