Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Ky'zen Jackson

County: Taylor

Date of Birth: May 31, 2023

Date of Death: November 13, 2024

Report Number: 2024-375692

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Ky'zen Jackson	17 months	Deceased Child
Shamireia Jackson	39	Paternal Aunt

1. Circumstances Surrounding Death

On November 13, 2024, this 17-month-old toddler died from injuries sustained on November 6, 2024, while in the care of the paternal aunt.

The paternal aunt stated that the toddler stays with her frequently while the mother works. On November 6, 2024, the toddler was laid down to take a nap around 3:00pm. Around 4:30pm, the aunt asked her daughter to wake the toddler up. The daughter found the toddler unresponsive and having difficulty breathing. The aunt called 911 and then called the mother to notify her of the incident. Law Enforcement arrived and the toddler was air lifted to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital where he was placed on life-support. Despite life-saving efforts, the toddler was pronounced deceased on November 13, 2024, at 10:28pm.

On November 14, 2024, an additional report was received with concerns that the toddler's toxicology results were positive for cocaine and methadone. There were concerns that the substances belonged to the aunt.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy and determined the cause of death as hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy acute methadone toxicity. The manner of death was an accident.

The Perry Police Department opened an investigation. On November 19, 2024, the aunt was interviewed by the Perry Police Department. The aunt disclosed that she obtained two methadone pills on November 6, 2024, around 2:30pm. She put the pills in a napkin and went back to her apartment and started cleaning. She did not remember where she placed the pills once she got home. On December 10, 2024, the aunt was arrested and charged with aggravated manslaughter of a child and third-degree murder. She remains in the Taylor County jail. The next court hearing is scheduled for January12, 2026.

The Child Protection Team (CPT) completed a medical records review on December 16, 2024. CPT has positive findings of fatal neglect, stating "Drugs/medication were left accessible to (the toddler). Likely he got into them."

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, DCF Taylor County Child Protective Investigations closed the investigation on December 1, 2025, with verified findings of death, environmental hazards, inadequate supervision, and substance misuse-illicit drugs with the aunt as the caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Home

The aunt had two children in the home at the time of the incident who currently reside with relatives.

2. Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The toddler is listed in one prior report as a child victim. In 2023, the toddler was named as a child victim and the mother listed as the alleged perpetrator with allegations of household violence threatens child. The mother went to the father's home to pick the toddler up and while the father was holding the toddler the mother punched him in the face. The case was closed with not substantiated findings. The most recent case was closed

[redacted]

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

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