Williamson Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Jeremiah Williamson

County: Franklin

Date of Birth: 02/02/2022

Date of Death: 06/25/2025

Report Number: 2025-218509

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Jeremiah Williamson	3-years-old	Deceased Child
[redacted]	7-years-old	Sibling
[redacted]	9-years-old	Sibling
Christy Russell	27-years-old	Mother
William Denton	44-years-old	Mother's Paramour

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On June 25, 2025, an investigation was received regarding the death of a 3-years-old child who was found unresponsive in a body of water near the house boat where the family was residing. The household consisted of the 3-year-old child, two older siblings, the mother, and the mother's paramour.

On June 25, 2025 at 4:56pm, Franklin County Emergency Services were contacted regarding a drowning of a child. The child had been found in the water by a unrelated male who had been at the marina. The child was transported to a local hospital, but he was later pronounced deceased.

According to information obtained from witnesses and the family, the 3-year-old child had been playing on the docks near and around the house boat. The decedent child and the two older children were often observed playing on the docks without adult supervision. On the date of the incident, the mother asked one of the siblings to check on the 3-year-old child. The sibling was unable to locate the child, and told his mother. The mother went looking for the child and began screaming. A unrelated male who was also at the marina, observed the child in the water and pulled him from the water. CPR was attempted, and emergency services were contacted. The child was later pronounced deceased.

The older sibling children advised that they were often responsible for watching their younger sibling while playing on the docks near the house boat where they resided. They would all play on the docks without life vests on, and they also did not know how to swim. The sibling also advised of a prior incident where the 3-year-old child had tried to jump in the boat from the boat, but he had fallen into the water. During this separate incident, he had told his mother what happened, and she had went into the water to get the child. The siblings reported on the date of

the 3-year-old child's drowning, they had not see him for 5-6 minutes before he was found unresponsive in the water.

Following the interview with the siblings, the Child Protection Team found positive findings of inadequate supervision concerning all the children finding the children reported being unsupervised on numerous times while on the house boat. The siblings reported being the 3-year-old's primary supervisor, and their mother pays "no attention."

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department completed the death investigation concerning the infant. No charges have been filed, and there are no pending charges.

The District Two Medical Examiner's Office completed the autopsy on the child The cause of death was listed as drowning, and the manner of death was listed as an accident.

Based on interviews and evidence gathered during the investigation, the Department closed its report with verified findings of death concerning the 3-year-old child, and verified findings of inadequate supervision concerning all of the children in the home.

Other Children in the Family

The siblings were determined to be unsafe in the home. The siblings were sheltered from the mother's care, and they were placed with relatives.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The mother has an extensive history with the Department [redacted] It appears the mother maintained some stability as she did not reappear to the Department until 2022 with a not substantiated intake for substance misuse and no indicated findings of substance misuse-alcohol. Within two months of case closure, a new intake was received and closed with the mother as the verified alleged perpetrator responsible for substance misuse, not substantiated for household violence threatens child, and no indicated for physical injury. The allegations noted concern for the mother's relapse, violence in the presence of the children and overall neglect. The children were ultimately sheltered. It appears the mother achieved reunification in February of 2024, and the case closed in August of 2024, but the mother was still engaged in intensive in-home treatment services. Two reports were received in 2024. One while the family was still under services and the other after formal case closure occurred. Both were allegations of inadequate supervision of different types. The first report indicated that the children were playing in the neighborhood and by the street unsupervised. Neighbor contacts were completed and there were no concerns expressed. This report was closed with no indicators. The second report was concerning a burn to the 9-year-old. It was determined that the 9-year-old was carrying hot noodles from microwave and the other child bumped him and the hot noodles/water spilled on him. The mother was present and immediately sought medical attention. A CPT medical was completed and there were additional

concerns of inadequate supervision provided, but it was determined that these occurred in the care of the babysitter's home. There was a report received and investigated on the babysitter that was closed as not substantiated and the children were no longer being cared for by the babysitter.

The mother's paramour also has a history with the Department [redacted]

Jennifer Renfro 12/5/25

Jennifer Renfro
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

Date

Regina Pleas 12/5/2025

Regina Pleas
NWR Family Safety Program Manager

Date