Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Kaiden Freeman

County: Brevard

Date of Birth: 06/28/2022

Date of Death: 07/26/2025

Report Number: 2025-250412

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Kaiden Freeman	3 years old	Child Victim
[redacted]	14 years old	Half-Sibling
Sharef Smith	40 years old	Father
Keisha Freeman	48 years old	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On July 26, 2025, the 3-year-old child passed away after suffering a drowning incident in the hotel pool.

According to the department and available agency records:

The family traveled from Georgia to Florida on July 25th, 2025 as the mother was attending a baking class at the Florida Baking Academy.

Keisha, [redacted], Kaiden and Sharef arrived in Florida at approximately 8:00 p.m. and checked into their hotel. Kaiden was playing while his older brother, [redacted] ordered food. The father went to the store and purchased lemonade and a four-pack of small wine bottles. A friend of the mother, who was hosting the class, arrived around 9:30 p.m., and they spent some time catching up. The mother and her friend each consumed one small bottle of wine and poured the remaining two bottles down the sink. She reported that she rarely drinks alcohol, and that one bottle was her limit. Around midnight, she went to bed with [redacted]. The father left the hotel at approximately 11:30 p.m. and returned about 40 minutes later.

On the morning of July 26, 2025, the father woke around 7:00 a.m. and met the mother's friend for breakfast while the mother and children were still asleep. After breakfast, they went to the Florida Baking Academy for the scheduled class. At 8:55 a.m., the father called the mother to say he was tired and was returning to the hotel. Records indicate he was picked up by a Lyft at 9:13 a.m. from the Florida Baking Academy and dropped off at the hotel at 9:45 a.m. The mother then drove to the school leaving Kaiden under the father's care. The mother arrived the baking academy at 9:52 a.m. and class began at 10:00 a.m.

At approximately 10:47 a.m., the father called the mother saying he was taking Kaiden to the pool and asked where the child's swim clothes were. The mother told him not to take the child to the pool and suggested they could go to the beach after the baking class instead. At about 11:16 a.m., the father called again asking the mother to step away from class so they can talk. Realizing something was wrong, the mother gathered her belongings and left. She repeatedly asked the father what was going on and asked where Kaiden was. Eventually, LE got on the phone and informed her Kaiden had been transported to the hospital.

EMS records indicate the 911 call was received at 11:07am. EMS arrived at 11:13am. Kaiden was transported to Holmes Regional Medical Center and later transferred to Advent Health Orlando.

On July 26, 2025, the child was pronounced deceased at 11:43 p.m.

The Palm Bay Police Department investigated the death of the child (25-005792).

The detective who investigated the incident confirmed that surveillance footage from the hotel pool area was reviewed. The video shows the child drowning in the pool while the father appeared to be asleep or passed out on the pool steps. A hotel maid, who was on the third floor, observed the incident through a window. She ran down the stairs screaming for help and pulled the child from the pool. A 911 call was placed at approximately 11:07 a.m. The detective reported that during the entire incident, the father did not move from his position on the pool steps. The child was in the pool for approximately 12 minutes. The detective further reported that an additional surveillance footage from the Mobil gas station adjacent to the hotel shows the father purchasing alcoholic "BuzzBallz" beverages (187 ml) at approximately 7:30 a.m. on July 26, 2025.

According to the detective, the father was uncooperative with law enforcement, refused to answer questions, and repeatedly asked to go smoke a cigarette. Officers noted the odor of alcohol on the father's breath. A subpoenaed blood draw was subsequently completed on the father.

The father had a suspended license and an outstanding DUI Warrant in Georgia. Lengthy criminal history to include several DUI's, narcotics, robbery, and disorderly conduct.

On July 26, 2025, the father was arrested and charged with Child Neglect with Great Bodily Harm-Aggravated Assault. On July 28, 2025, the father was charged with Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child.

The mother submitted to a drug screen and was positive to alcohol.

The autopsy report was received on September 30, 2025, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Brooke Blake, M.D., completed an autopsy of the child on July 17, 2025. ME# 25-09-001248.

The death certificate was received on September 30, 2025, and indicated District 9 Medical Examiner Brooke Blake, M.D., signed and certified the death certificate for the child on August 6, 2025. ME# 25-09-001248.

Cause of Death: Complications of Drowning

Manner of Death: Accident

On October 30, 2025, the Department of Children and Families' investigation was closed with:

- Verified Death, Inadequate Supervision and Substance misuse: Alcohol as Kaiden with the father, Sharef Smith, as caregiver responsible.

Other Children in the Family:

The sibling was deemed to be safe and remains in the mother's care. Grief counseling information was provided to the family.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The family did not have any open services.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The family does not have any prior abuse report history in Florida, nor in their home state of Georgia.

SPP

10/31/2025

Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist — Date
Stephanie Pena

Christie Noto

10/31/2025

Central Region C18 Operations Manager — Date
Christie Noto