Smith Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Jakaiden Smith

County: Escambia

Date of Birth: 10/02/2020

Date of Death: 02/06/2026

Report Number: 2026-052287

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Jakaiden Smith	5-years-old	Deceased Child
Jalynda Smith	36-years-old	Mother

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On February 11, 2026, an investigation was received regarding the death of a 5-year-old child who was pronounced deceased on February 6, 2026. At the time of the child's death, the household consisted of the mother and the 5-year-old child.

On 02/05/2026, law enforcement received a report from a family member reporting the mother and her 5-year-old son missing. On 02/06/2026, a family member had received contact from the mother who stated that she was scared because she had previously come into her home and her son was not breathing. The mother did not provide her location to the family member. The relative went to the family's home, but neither the mother nor the child were present. Law enforcement also went to the home and did not find the mother or the child present. Neighbors advised that they had not seen the mother or child in a couple of days. Surveillance videos were obtained which showed the mother leaving the apartment on the morning of 02/04/2026 and never returning.

On 02/06/2026, Escambia County Sheriff Department received a call reporting the body of a small child was found in a trash bag along the waterline of the bay located in the area of Lillian Highway in Escambia County. The child was determined to be the 5-year-old child.

The child's medical history indicated that the child had been seen by the same primary care provider since 2021. Medical records revealed that in 2021, the child had been diagnosed with failure to thrive. After this, the child had only been seen for annual well-child visits. During these visits, the child was on bottom of the weight scale but was increasing in weight. In 2024, the child had been found to be under the 5^{h} percentile in weight for his body mass index. The mother reported that the child vomited with food intake, and labs were ordered; however, the mother did not comply and complete these labs. The child's last appointment with the provider occurred on 12/15/25. During this appointment, the mother reported no further concerns for vomiting after food intake, and the child weighed approximately 30 pounds. The child was diagnosed with autism and referrals for speech and language were completed. The child was non-verbal.

When the child's body was found by law enforcement, the child's eyes appeared to be deeply sunken in, and his torso and extremities appeared absent of meaningful muscle and the child appeared emaciated. His overall mass appeared inconsistent with the expected mass of a 5-year-old child. The child weighed approximately 20 pounds, indicating a loss of 10 pounds since his last visit with his primary care provider less than two months prior.

Escambia County Sheriff Department completed the criminal investigation into the death of the child. The mother was arrested and charged with aggravated manslaughter on 02/06/2026 due to the mother failing to properly respond to the child loosing approximately one-third of his body weight in a short duration of time causing malnourishment and dehydration resulting in his death. On 03/26/2026, the mother was indicted on charges of first-degree murder and tampering with evidence by an Escambia County Grand Jury. The mother remains in jail at this time.

Based on information obtained during the investigation, the Department concluded the investigation with verified findings of death, failure to thrive/malnutrition/dehydration, and environmental hazards.

Other Children in the Family

There were no other children residing in the home.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The mother and child have been involved in two prior investigations with the Department. In March of 2022, there was a report received concerning allegations of inadequate supervision closed with verified findings The family was referred to Northwest Florida Health through an in-home non-judicial case which closed in October 2022. The most recent investigation was received in October 2025 with allegations of inadequate supervision. This report was closed with no indicators, but the family was referred to the Family Intervention Program. However, the mother later denied services.

Jennifer Renfro _____ 06/12/2026

Jennifer Renfro
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Date

Regina Pleas _____ 6/12/26

Regina Pleas
NWR Family Safety Program Manager
Date