Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: [redacted]

County: Gilchrist

Date of Birth: June 28, 2021

Date of Death: January 3, 2022

Report Number: 2022-023020

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
[redacted]	6 months	Deceased Child
[redacted]	30	Father

1. Circumstances Surrounding Death

On January 3, 2022, this six-month-old infant was found unresponsive by his father after they co-slept in the father's bed. The father ran out of his room screaming and a roommate called 911. When Law Enforcement (LE) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived, and despite life-saving efforts, they pronounced him deceased at the home at 8:25am.

The father was renting a room from a friend and was the sole caregiver for the infant. The father placed the infant face up to sleep in the queen-sized bed next to the father. The father gave the infant a bottle around midnight and 3:30am. The father woke up at 8am and found the infant cold to the touch and not breathing.

When the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office arrived at the residence, methamphetamines werelocated in the father's room and the room of the homeowner. There was 8.3 grams located in the father's bed. LE also found drug paraphernalia (glass pipes, plastic baggies, scales) located throughout the home. The bed was also observed to have a blanket and sheet as well as clothing and dirt on it.

LE opened an investigation into the infant's death. When interviewed by LE, some collateral contacts reported witnessing the father hold the infant's nose closed to stop the infant from crying. No further information could be confirmed, and their investigation was closed on May 3, 2023, without pursuing criminal charges.

The infant's fatality was not reported to the Florida Abuse Hotline until January 25, 2022. It is unknown if the father was using methamphetamines at the time of the infant's death. The father admitted that the drugs and drug paraphernalia were his. The father denied using it on the night of the incident but had forgotten it was there. The father then disclosed using methamphetamines two days prior to the Department's interview.

The Medical Examiner completed an autopsy and determined the cause of death as sudden unexplained death in infancy with co-sleeping. The manner of death was undetermined.

The Child Protection Team (CPT) declined a medical records review.

Based on the information obtained during the investigation, DCF Gilchrist County Child Protective Investigations closed the investigation on September 11, 2023, with not substantiated findings of death and substance misuse-illicit drugs, and verified findings for inadequate supervision

Other Children in the Family

The infant had no surviving siblings at the time of his death.

2. Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

[redacted]

Melissa Stanley, MSMFT, CPP
Child Fatality Prevention Specialist

2/5/2024
Date

Melissa Walker
NER Program Manager

2/15/24
Date