Indiana: 2024 Annual Report of Child Abuse & Neglect Fatalities in Indiana

The Annual Report of Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities in Indiana is the state's official record of child deaths determined by the Indiana Department of Child Services to have been caused by caregiver maltreatment or neglect.

Victim: 1-year-old girl

DCS involvement at time of fatal event: No open DCS involvement

Number of previous unsubstantiated assessments for victim: 0

Number of previous substantiated assessments for victim: 0

Screened-out reports: 0

Perpetrator: Mother

Perpetrator history of substantiated assessments: 1

Criminal charges: Yes

Circumstances: A 1-year-old girl died from a submersion injury. She lived with her parents, a sibling and a grandparent. On the day of the fatality, the mother stated that she took a shower with the child. When she looked away, she heard a thud, and the child was unconscious. 911 was called, and upon arrival the first responders observed the child lying on the living room floor, face down, cold and wet. The mother provided inconsistent statements as to what occurred, but she later admitted to leaving the child unattended in the bathtub. The father stated the mother woke him up after the child was already unresponsive. The home was observed to be in disarray, and the flooring near the bathroom was saturated with water. Portable breath tests were given to the parents. The mother's test was negative, while the father's result was 0.44. The parents submitted to drug screens, and they both tested positive for THC.