# Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

**Person ID:** 109696275

**County of Child's Residence:** DALLAS

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 3 Year(s) 4 Month(s)

**Date of Death:** 03/21/2025

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entititled to the child's possession.

---

**Child's Name:** Short,Kinzleig

**Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:**

**Intake Date(s):** 03/18/2025

**Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The Department received a report stating that on 03/12/2025 someone flagged law enforcement down to report a disturbance at the hospital emergency room parking lot. Law enforcement found that the deceased child had been shot while in the vehicle at the hospital. The deceased child's mother knew there was a firearm under the seat. The mother reported the child's 4-year-old sibling was playing with the gun and didn't know it was loaded.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother had only been caring for the children for several days as they had been in the care of fictive kin until they had to go the hospital. The mother had brought this caregiver clothes on the day of the incident as the caregiver was being discharged from the hospital. The mother told law enforcement that she had placed the rifle under the seat prior to going to the hospital. While parked, she started cleaning out the front passenger side floorboard and heard a pop and found that the deceased child had been shot in the head. She took the child into the emergency room, and the child was then transported to the children's hospital and placed on life support. On 03/21/2025, the child was pronounced deceased. The child's 4-year-old sibling was forensically interviewed and stated there was a real shotgun under her mom's seat and she was playing with it. The sibling demonstrated how she pulled the trigger and said the bullet hit her sister. Law enforcement reviewed hospital surveillance video and observed the mother in the front seat, reaching/digging around the front seat and the children were sitting in the backseat. A short time later, the video showed the back right window bust out, and the mother carrying a lifeless child's body to the emergency room. The mother did not cooperate with the Department and obtained legal counsel. The mother did not testify to the circumstances surrounding the shooting but did testify to using methamphetamines two weeks prior to the fatal incident and had used methamphetamines and marijuana for

the last two years.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy, and the final report indicated the child died as a result of a rifle would through the head. The manner of death was undetermined.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, and the mother was charged with child endangerment.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to her death.

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling.

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/19/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 08/01/2025: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

**Case Action:**

Removal/Subcare

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

Parent/Caregiver Training

**Other Services:**

The sibling's father agreed to accept the services offered by the Department as part of the conservatorship case.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the deceased child's sibling.

**If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:**

Not applicable.

## Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):** 10/31/2020

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's mother and the deceased child's sibling tested positive for marijuana and opioids at the time of the sibling's birth. The opioid positive was due to medications given to the mother at the emergency room. The mother admitted to smoking marijuana after finding out she was pregnant and she received sporadic prenatal care.

The Department's investigation determined the mother smoked marijuana during her pregnancy and was positive for marijuana on a hair strand drug test and the sibling's meconium was positive for marijuana as well. There were additional concerns found regarding domestic violence between the mother and the sibling's father and the mother had left the father's residence a month ago and had a temporary protective order in place. The sibling's father did not cooperate with the Department and denied being the sibling's father. The mother and sibling moved in with the fictive kin caregiver who was very protective and willing to provide ongoing support to the family.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department confirmed the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child's sibling.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 11/02/2020: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 01/28/2021: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

The mother agreed to services and referrals offered as part of the investigation however declined Family-Based Safety Services.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

A safety plan was initiated in which the mother would be supervised around the sibling by the fictive kin caregiver. A Family Team Meeting was also held to develop a plan for ongoing child safety and support for the mother and sibling, who remained in the home of the fictive kin caregiver.

The Department's investigation was closed.

## Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):** 12/31/2022

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

he Department received a report stating the deceased child's mother went to pick up the deceased child's father after she got off work and they were supposed to spend the night together at the mother?s house. The father had been drinking, and they got into a verbal argument. The mother then took the father back to his house and punched the father in the face. Both the mother and father then engaged in mutual combat with each other and sustained injuries. The mother was arrested and stated she threw the first punch. The deceased child and the sibling were with their grandmother.

The Department's investigation determined that the mother and father had a physical altercation in the vehicle however neither of the children was present. The father had been drinking alcohol for over three hours and was intoxicated. The mother and father do not live together, and the father and his family never have the children unsupervised. The mother had a strong support system with the fictive kin caregiver, who was considered the children's grandmother, and the mother and children continued to reside in the fictive kin caregiver's home. There was protective order put in place that the mother was following, and the mother was going to seek help with getting formal custody and visitation in place.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child or the sibling.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 01/03/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

The mother agreed to services and referrals offered.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

## Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):** 08/28/2023

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The Department received a report stating that the deceased child and sibling were not picked up from their daycare. The mother was unable to be reached so they phoned the children's father at 6:10pm and when the father arrived around 6:30pm, he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and was staggering. The father had the children follow him to his truck, which did not have car seats to secure the children. Law enforcement was called and arrested father after he failed a field sobriety test. Following the father's arrest, daycare called the children's grandmother who was authorized to pick up the children. The grandmother made statements that the children were not in a good home environment. It was also reported the children do not come to the daycare clean.

The Department's investigation determined that the father admitted to drinking and driving and placing the children in the car to take them home. He was arrested for driving while intoxicated. The children's mother was out of town at the time of the incident and chose to leave the children in the care of the fictive kin caregiver while she got back on her feet. The children were being well cared for in the fictive kin caregivers' home and would ensure the children would reside with her until the mother and father were capable of caring for them. The children's mother and father both agreed for the children to remain in the fictive kin caregiver's home.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department confirmed the deceased child's father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and sibling.

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's father committed physical neglect of the deceased child and sibling.

The Department did not confirm any other individual committed neglectful supervision or physical neglect of the deceased child and sibling.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/30/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 09/28/2023: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

No services or referrals were provided.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

## Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):** 12/26/2024

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

The Department received a report stating that the fictive kin caregiver had agreed to keep the deceased child and her sibling for a month while their mother got on her feet, got a place to stay, and obtained a job. It has now been at least six months, and the fictive kin caregiver has been ill for two weeks and has been begging the children's mother to come and get the children because she cannot care for them any longer. The mother is in and out of the fictive kin caregiver's home and would sometimes provide care for the children but has now been gone for three days. There have been numerous police reports for stolen or damaged vehicles because of the mother. There were concerns of the mother using drugs and the father being an alcoholic.

The Department's investigation determined that the children appeared to be cared for appropriately and all their needs were being met. The family has continued to utilize the family team meeting plan made in the previous case to ensure safety of the children. The mother denied any drug use around the children stating she would smoke marijuana away from the home when the children were in the car of the fictive kin caregiver and not return until the following day after she was sober. The fictive kin caregiver denied seeing drug use by mother as the mother knows not to be around if she has used. The fictive kin caregiver was having some medical issues but was able to continue caring for the children. The children's father visits the children at the fictive kin caregiver's home.

**Investigation Findings:**

The Department did not confirm the deceased child's mother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child and sibling.

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 12/27/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 01/29/2025: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Moderate

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

The family agreed to accept services and referrals offered to include resources for daycare, counseling, employment, and medical care.

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

## Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

**Intake Date(s):**

**Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:**

**Investigation Findings:**

**Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**

**Case Action:**

**Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:**

**Other Services:**

**Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:**

Note: This report was prepared on 05/12/2026 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.