Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 113621709

County of Child's Residence: DALLAS

Gender: Male

Age: 4 Year(s) 8 Month(s)

Date of Death: 08/07/2025

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: Sanders,D'Kari M

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/08/2025

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report regarding the deceased child's drowning the previous evening. The child's mother had died two days prior due to complications from the birth of the child's newborn half-sibling, and the child's maternal grandmother was at the residence with the child's father. Other family had stopped by, and the father and grandmother stepped out of the apartment to talk about funeral arrangements. When the grandmother returned inside, the child was missing. The child had gotten out of the home before, and the door had safety locks on it. Since the father and grandmother were outside, it is believed the door was left open. The child was found in the pool by a cousin. Law enforcement and emergency medical services were contacted, and the child was taken to the hospital.

The Department's investigation determined that while the father was speaking with a relative outside the apartment and the grandmother came out on more than one occasion to join in the conversation, that neither one of them noticed the deceased child had left the apartment. The child walked to the apartment complex swimming pool, climbed the fence around the pool, and then jumped into the swimming pool and drowned. The child was unaccounted for and in the pool for approximately thirty-six minutes. This incident was captured on a surveillance video. The surviving sibling's alleged biological father requested the sibling be placed with his godmother as that was discussed with the deceased child's mother prior to her death and he and the godmother sought legal intervention for this to occur however the sibling's father had not established paternity.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, but final results were still pending when the Department?s investigation closed. The preliminary autopsy results concluded that the cause of the child?s death was drowning and that the

manner of death was accidental.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation, and no charges were filed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed that the deceased child's father and maternal grandmother committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child, which led to his death.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 08/08/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe
2.) 09/10/2025: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Close

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Basic Needs Support

Other Services:

The family agreed to services and referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department initiated safety plan regarding the maternal grandmother having supervised contact with the surviving sibling. The alleged father of the sibling and the godmother petitioned the court on their own to have the godmother be named the siblings guardian. At their hearing, the court ordered the Department to file for Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the sibling, which was granted, as the alleged father had not established paternity. The sibling remained in the care of the godmother.

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): 08/31/1994

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report concerning the physical abuse of the deceased child's mother by the deceased child's maternal grandmother at the time of the mother's birth.

Due to the age of the case, no other information is known, however the maternal grandmother reports in later case that when the deceased child's mother was born, she tested positive for drugs. She stated she received services from the Department but did not go to drug treatment as she stopped using on her own.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the deceased child's maternal grandmother committed physical abuse of the deceased child's mother.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother accepted services provided through the Department.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Family Preservation case was opened on 08/31/1994 and closed on 08/31/1996. Due to the age of the case, no other information is known.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/21/2000

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's maternal grandmother was using drugs, leaving her four children alone while she was out using at night, and that the deceased child's maternal grandfather had moved in to help with the children but he had been kicked out so would not be able to any longer.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's maternal grandmother and grandfather were engaging in domestic violence in front of the four children. The grandmother admitted to using crack cocaine several days a week. Some of the children had scars from inappropriate discipline. There were roaches crawling on the table, floor and walls, and a pile of pills on the floor. The refrigerator and freezer were dirty. There was food in the freezer, but not much food in the refrigerator. The house was dark and cluttered. In addition to the family, there were two other grown men and a grown woman who had been brought into the home.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the maternal grandmother and grandfather committed physical neglect of their four children.

The Department confirmed the maternal grandmother committed neglectful supervision of her four children.

The Department was unable to determine if the maternal grandfather committed neglectful supervision of his four children.

The Department confirmed the maternal grandmother and grandfather committed physical abuse of their 5-year-old daughter.

The Department did not confirm the maternal grandmother committed physical abuse of her 4-year-old and 10-year-old sons.

The Department was unable to determine if the maternal grandmother committed physical abuse of her 3-month-old daughter.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessment: Not yet required due to age of case.
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: Risk Indicated

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's maternal grandparents agreed to services as part of the Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the four children on 08/22/2000 and the case was opened to Conservatorship. During this case, the grandmother was not successful in services, while the grandfather was able to care for the children. The father was granted Permanent Managing Conservatorship of the four children, and the legal case was dismissed on 04/16/2001. The Department kept the case opened in order to provide the grandfather needed daycare services. The grandmother was allowed supervised contact with the children.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/16/2002

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child's maternal grandmother had given birth to the deceased child's maternal aunt, who was born with multiple medical issues. The grandmother admitted to using cocaine during her pregnancy, but it had not been determined if the newborn's medical problems were a result of the drug usage.

The Department's investigation determined that the grandmother had used early in her pregnancy but reported not using since December of 2001. The newborn's medical issues could not be determined to be the result of the drug use. The deceased child's mother and her siblings were in the care of the deceased child's maternal grandfather as he was awarded custody of them as a result of the prior case with the Department. He was allowing unsupervised contact between his children and the grandmother but agreed to supervise the contact again.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's grandmother committed physical abuse of the deceased child's maternal aunt.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessment: Not yet required due to age of case.
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: Risk Indicated

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The deceased child's grandmother agreed to accept services and referrals offered, to include working with Family-Based Safety Services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A safety plan was put in place to ensure the grandfather would supervise the grandmother's contact with the children. The Department opened the case to Family-Based Safety Services on 05-08-2002. The mother accessed resources provided and was addressing her issues. The older children were still residing with their father and there were no concerns in his home. The grandmother moved to Missouri in order for her youngest child to receive specialized care from a Dr. there. The case was closed on 05-22-2003.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/12/2003

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a referral with concerns for the biological children of the deceased child's maternal grandmother, specifically the deceased child's mother and maternal aunt. The report stated the home had no food, was filthy with trash strewn about, and not safe for the terminally ill aunt.

The Department's investigation determined that the deceased child's mother and uncle were residing with the deceased child's maternal grandfather as the maternal aunt was back in the hospital and the grandmother was spending most of her time there. The grandfather had no concerns for his children. The home was not dirty and there was plenty of food.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's grandmother and grandfather committed physical neglect of the deceased child's mother and maternal aunt.

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's grandmother and grandfather committed medical neglect of the deceased child's maternal aunt.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:
Safety Assessment: Not yet required due to age of case.
Risk Assessment Risk Finding: No Significant Factors

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

No services or referrals provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 04/08/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report that of 04/06/2024 law enforcement responded to a critical missing child call. At the time, the deceased child had recently moved in with his maternal uncle and his mother. While the mother was showering, uncle unintentionally left the door open. The child was able to get out of the home and was found at a nearby school.

The Department's investigation determined that the child and his mother had only been residing with the uncle for a couple of days. The uncle stated he did not have a close relationship with the child's mother prior to them moving in and was unaware of what all to look out for regarding the care of the child as it related to his diagnosis of Autism.

Investigation Findings:

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

The Department did not confirm that an unknown individual committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 04/11/2024: 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 provided.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 02/05/2025

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after law enforcement responded to the deceased child being found outside by himself wearing only a shirt and diaper. The home where the child was located was two to three blocks away from where the child lived.

The Department's investigation determined that the child was uninjured, and it was not known how the child got out of the home. The deceased child's mother and father purchased locks for the doors and windows to ensure the child could no longer elope.

Investigation Findings:

The Department was unable to determine if the deceased child's mother and father committed neglectful supervision of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 02/07/2025: 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 provided as the family obtained window and door locks on their own.

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.