Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 114889010

County of Child's Residence: DENTON

Gender: Male

Age: 5 Year(s) 8 Month(s)

Date of Death: 01/16/2025

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: Mckenney,Matthew

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/27/2025

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report with concerns the deceased child, the deceased child's sibling, and the deceased child's mother were discovered deceased at the family's residence. The mother and her two children were found deceased, in what law enforcement suspects was a murder-suicide. Their bodies were located in the back of their vehicle, which was parked inside the family's garage.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child and the deceased child's sibling were in the care of their mother at the time of their deaths. During the investigation, the Department obtained information from collaterals, law enforcement, and medical staff regarding the deceased child's death. Law enforcement completed a welfare check to the home due to the deceased child missing school for several days. Law enforcement discovered the mother, the child, and the child's sibling inside the mother's vehicle in the garage. The mother and children were located in the back of a vehicle, covered by a blanket featuring a picture of the sibling's father. A note was found taped to the car window, and the garage door had been sealed shut with plastic, fabric, and duct tape. There was a carbon monoxide detector located inside the vehicle with the batteries removed. The mother and children's deaths were the result of a murder suicide by the mother. The sibling's father had committed suicide in the presence of the family in September 2024. The mother and deceased child received counseling after his death.

Law enforcement completed an investigation and determined the children's deaths were the result of a murder suicide by the mother.

The medical examiner completed an autopsy and cause of death for the children and mother were believed to be related to carbon monoxide poisoning. The final autopsy results were pending at the time the Department's investigation closed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother committed Physical Abuse of the deceased child and the deceased child's sibling, which led to their death.

The Department did not confirm the mother committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child and the deceased child's sibling. Based on the information gathered, the circumstances were consistent with Physical Abuse and not Neglectful Supervision.

Safety and Risk Assessment were not required per policy.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Only child died

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Not applicable.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

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): 09/13/2024

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report after law enforcement responded to the family's residence due to a dispute between the deceased child's mother and her paramour (bio father of the deceased sibling). Shortly after the argument began, the mother's paramour was shot inside the bedroom. The child was present for the entire argument and the shooting. Law enforcement was investigating the incident, but it appeared to be a suicide. It was suspected the paramour used the mother?s handgun, which he typically carried, to shoot himself in the head. The mother contacted the police, and when they arrived, the paramour was still alive. He was transported by medics to the hospital and pronounced deceased. Multiple open beer cans at the scene suggest alcohol was a factor, and there are indications the paramour may have used Xanax.

The Department's investigation determined that the home was shared by the mother, the deceased child, and the mother's paramour and the mother was currently pregnant with the paramour's child. A forensic interview with the child established that the paramour's death was a suicide, not a homicide, and the child witnessed the paramour shot himself. Despite numerous attempts, the mother declined to speak with the Department, citing her need to grieve. The home was deemed a crime scene, preventing a worker from accessing the home. The mother and her child were residing with relatives until they were allowed to return home. The child's school reported no concerns and were planning to collaborate with the counselor and principal to support him. The child's biological father was said to live out of state; however, the Department was unable to verify his identity due to the mother's lack of cooperation.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the mother's paramour committed Neglectful Supervision of the deceased child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/17/2024: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Low

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The family didn't agree to services; however the Department confirmed the mother and child were engaged in counseling services in the community.

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.