Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 117903608

County of Child's Residence: DALLAS

Gender: Male

Age: 0 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 09/16/2025

On the date of the fatality, the child was in DFPS conservatorship. At that time, the child was residing in a General Residential Operation.

Child's Name: Williams,Preston

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/5/2025, 09/16/2025 - two reports merged into a single investigation

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating the deceased child arrived at the hospital on 9/5/2025 at around 10:00AM. The deceased child had multiple brain bleeds and multiple healing rib fractures. The deceased child's parents did not have an explanation for what happened and left the hospital without meeting with anyone. The deceased child's sibling was not present at the hospital. An additional referral was received on 09/16/2025 which stated the deceased child passed away at the hospital after being taken off life support. Additionally, it was reported to the Department the deceased child's father admitted to physically abusing the deceased child and was arrested.

The Department's investigation determined the father was alone and the sole caregiver of the child during the time the child became unresponsive on 09/05/2025. During an interview with law enforcement, the father admitted to picking up the child while the mother was at the store and shook him side to side in a twisting motion. After shaking the child, the father gave him a bottle and went downstairs to watch something on his phone. The father reported it was between 5-6 minutes from when the incident occurred until the child became non-responsive. The child suffered extensive injuries which were consistent with extreme acceleration-deceleration (whiplash) forces with impact, to include healing rib fractures which were at least a week old at the time of the hospital admittance, a skull fracture, and hemorrhages to the brain and spinal cord. Due to the child's poor medical prognosis, the child was removed from life support and subsequently passed away from the injuries on 09/16/2025. Furthermore, both parents submitted to drug testing and were confirmed positive for marijuana on both a urinalysis and hair strand testing. It was also determined that the mother was allowing the surviving sibling to be in the unsupervised care of fictive kin, who she knew was a lifetime registered sex offender.

The Department consulted child abuse medical professionals with the Forensic Assessment Center Networks which also concluded the injuries presented onto the child is consistent with acceleration-deceleration (whiplash) forces with impact.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy; however, the final results were pending at the time the Department's investigation closed. The medical examiner was able to confirm the injuries the child exhibited were consistent with the child being shaken.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still ongoing when the Department closed its investigation, however they had arrested the father for Injury to Child Serious Bodily Injury.

Investigation Findings:

The Department confirmed the father committed physical abuse against the deceased child, which led to his death.

The Department was unable to determine if the mother committed physical abuse of the deceased child.

The Department confirmed the mother committed neglectful supervision of the surviving child.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 09/05/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Unsafe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: Very High

Case Action:

Removal/Subcare

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother and father accepted evaluation services offered to include services offered as part of the Conservatorship case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The Department sought and was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of the surviving sibling, who was placed with paternal grandparents.

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): 03/01/2022, 05/03/2022 - two reports merged into a single investigation

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report of a fatal event involving the deceased child's older half-sibling, age one, after he was found unresponsive by the deceased child's mother. Also in the home was the deceased child's surviving sibling, age 3 weeks at the time. The deceased child's father was involved with the mother but resided elsewhere. The mother reported she awoke at 7:00AM and went to check on the half-sibling and discovered the half-sibling to be unresponsive on his side. The mother reported she had put the half-sibling down on his back on an air mattress that was noted to not be fully inflated. The half sibling was pronounced deceased at the hospital. A second report was received during the fatality investigation stating there was a fictive kin individual in the home who was a registered sex offender. It was also reported that during the initial incident with the deceased half-sibling, the mother had contacted the fictive kin individual prior to calling emergency services and he told mother what to do with the body, although what specifically that meant was unclear. This report also contained concerns the deceased half-sibling had bruises all over his head and legs as well as concerns the deceased child's father would curse the half-sibling out and throw the half-sibling into his car seat. There were also concerns for drug abuse by the mother and deceased child's father.

The Department's investigation determined the deceased child's mother and father were dating. The deceased child's father was not the biological father to the deceased half-sibling, however, was actively involved in parenting the half-sibling. Neither the mother nor the deceased child's father could provide an explanation of how the half-sibling died. It was discovered through autopsy the half-sibling had signs of blunt force injuries at varying stages of healing, but it was unclear if the injuries contributed to the death. There were also facial injuries which could be components of asphyxia; however, this was not definite.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the manner and cause of death were classified as undetermined.

The Department consulted child abuse medical professionals with Forensic Assessment Center Networks which expressed the injuries found were not the cause of death but were concerning for maltreatment in the home.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was closed without any charges filed.

Investigation Findings:

The Department did not confirm the mother or father committed neglectful supervision of the surviving sibling.

The Department was unable to determine if the mother and father committed physical abuse of the deceased half-sibling.

The Department administratively closed concerns the fictive kin committed sexual abuse of the surviving sibling.

The Department did not confirm an unknown individual committed neglectful supervision of the deceased half-sibling.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 03/01/2022: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe
2.) 07/07/2022: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe
3.) 08/18/2022: Safety Assessment - Case Closure: Safe

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

The mother and father were provided and accepted counseling and grief services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

The Department's investigation was closed.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 01/22/2021

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report for the deceased child's surviving sibling after the deceased child's mother and father were found sleeping in a minivan with the surviving sibling asleep in the car seat. The mother and father reported to be on call for transporting bodies but provided conflicting information regarding where the surviving sibling is while they are working and why they cannot return home.

The Department determined there did not appear to be abuse or neglect occurring and the report was closed without assignment.

Investigation Findings:

Not applicable.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Risk Assessment: Not Applicable

Case Action:

Closed without assignment.

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Not applicable.

Other Services:

Not applicable.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Not applicable.

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.