Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 118311525

County of Child's Residence: HIDALGO

Gender: Female

Age: 0 Year(s) 2 Month(s)

Date of Death: 10/23/2025

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: Banda,Aliyah

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 10/17/2025

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The Department received a report stating that the deceased child was taken to the emergency room at a local hospital by the deceased child's father. The father indicated the deceased child started to choke while he was bottle feeding her. The father reported to medical staff that the deceased child had been taken to her pediatrician and referred to the Ear Nose Throat specialist due to her having difficulty swallowing. The deceased child was placed on a ventilator as she was not responding to medical treatment. On 10/16/2025, a Computed Tomography (CT) scan and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) were performed on the deceased child, which revealed a small left subdural hematoma. On 10/17/2025 a skeletal survey was completed, and medical staff discovered the child had old fractures on both her arms. The deceased child was taken off sedation and there was diffused low voltage and low brain activity. Both parents mentioned that the deceased child had a history of seizures, but there was no seizure activity. Medical professionals were reviewing the CT scan again as there seemed to be bilateral frontal hygroma and the possibility of old blood could not be ruled out.

The Department's investigation determined that the father was the caregiver of the deceased child during the time she became unresponsive. The father then drove by private vehicle to a freestanding Emergency Care Clinic. The deceased child received life saving measures and regained her pulse. The deceased child was immediately transferred via ambulance to the local Children's Hospital. The deceased child was placed on a ventilator and never regained consciousness. The child was taken off life support and was pronounced deceased on 10/23/2025. The deceased child's father admitted to pressing the child's head against a mattress with the palm of his hand to get her to stop crying. The father admitted to doing this about five times before out of frustration. The father stated that after

doing this, the deceased child became unresponsive, and he rushed her to the nearest emergency clinic. The deceased child's father did not change his explanation about how he caused the child's injuries. The deceased child's mother was working from home in a separate room at the time this occurred. The deceased child's mother denied hearing or seeing the father hurt the deceased child. The deceased child suffered from forearm fractures and serious brain injuries. The injuries the deceased child suffered were acute and the child would have shown symptoms almost immediately, placing the father as the only individual who could have caused them. The deceased child's mother and father also admitted to using marijuana and marijuana was found in the home.

The medical examiner conducted an autopsy, and the final results were pending at the conclusion of the Department's investigation.

Law enforcement conducted an investigation that was still ongoing when the Department closed its investigation. However, they arrested the deceased child's father on a felony charge for injury to a child with intent of serious bodily injury. Charges may be elevated upon receipt of the final autopsy.

Investigation Findings:

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

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

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Structured Decision Making Safety Assessments:
1.) 10/18/2025: Safety Assessment - Initial: Safe with plan
2.) 11/26/2025: Safety Assessment - Reassessment: Safe with plan

Risk Assessment Final Risk Level: High

Case Action:

Family Preservation

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Counseling and Evaluation,Parent/Caregiver Training

Other Services:

The family accepted services and referrals offered to include those provided in a Family-Based Safety Services case.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

A Parent Child Safety Placement was initiated in which the deceased child's surviving sibling is under the primary care of his paternal grandmother and all contact with his mother is to be supervised. A protective order is in place in which the deceased child's father is not to have contact with the mother and the surviving sibling. A Family Team Meeting was held to assist the family in identifying services needed for the family. The family was referred to Family-Based Safety Services and that case opened on 11/06/2025 and were participating in services at the time the Department's investigation closed.

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.

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.