

New Jersey
Department of Children and Families
Public CCAPTA Reports
January 2024 – December 2024

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Department of Children and Families
Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P)
Report on Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Information below is provided under authority at NJSA 9:6-8.10a and NJAC 10:133G. Pursuant to federal law at 42 USC 5106a et seq and guidance in the federal Child Welfare Policy Manual, released information is limited to that which is pertinent to the subject fatality or near fatality.

☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): A.L. **Gender:**Female
Date of Birth/Age: 11/7/19 **County of Residence:**Somerset

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 8/30/22 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:**8/30/22

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 8/30/22, A.L., age 2, was found unresponsive in her father's, W.L., car that was located in the family's driveway. On the day of the incident, W.L. was transporting his children to summer camp and day care. He placed both of his children in the car and dropped off his 6-year old child at summer camp. W.L. returned home and A.L. remained in the car. She was strapped into a car seat in the rear seat of the car. Approximately 5 hours later, W.L. observed that A.L. was still in the car. He immediately took her out and contacted 911. EMS initiated resuscitation efforts; however, A.L. was pronounced dead at the scene. According to the medical examiner, the cause of death was hyperthermia. CP&P conducted an investigation and W.L. was substantiated for neglect

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):E.L. (6-year-old female) was unharmed. She remains in the care and custody of her parents.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☒ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:N/A

Types of Service Provided:N/A

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:N/A

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): C.C. **Gender:** Male
Date of Birth/Age: 1/5/23 **County of Residence:** Cape May

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 6/25/23 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:** 6/25/23

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 6/25/23, the mother, M.S., admitted to drinking between 12 and 14 airplane sized bottles of alcohol prior to falling asleep in bed with her son, C.C., in her arms. When M.S. awoke, she found C.C. located between the mattress and wall. M.S. contacted the police to report C.C. was unresponsive. C.C. was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. C.C.'s autopsy report stated the cause of death was mechanical asphyxia due to compression of torso between bed and wall. M.S. plead guilty to Reckless Manslaughter and is currently serving a 4 year sentence. CP&P conducted an investigation and M.S. was substantiated for neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only): M.C. (6 year old female) and I.D. (12 year old female) were at home and uninjured. A Safety Protection Plan was implemented that prohibited M.S. from having unsupervised contact with M.C. I.D. is in the care and custody of her father.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☒ Closed (Date Closed: 3/30/20) ☐ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:

On 12/29/19, the police responded to the home due to an altercation between two family members. Upon arrival to the home, all of the adults were intoxicated and the police observed airplane bottles of alcohol all over the house. M.S. two children, ages 8 and 2, were at home and uninjured. M.S. admitted to being under the influence of alcohol while caring for her children. She denied that this occurred often, submitted to urine screen that noted no concerns. M.S. agreed to refrain from drinking while caring for her children. The allegations of neglect were not established.

Types of Service Provided:Urine screen

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:C.C. was not born at the time of the family's prior involvement.

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): C.R. **Gender:** Male
Date of Birth/Age: 12/01/2014 **County of Residence:** Middlesex

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 03/28/2024 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:** 03/29/2024

Allegation Type: ☒ Abuse ☐ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 3/28/24, the Sayreville Police Department responded to the Sayreville High School parking lot after receiving calls regarding a vehicle fire. M.R. was found outside of the vehicle with a self-inflicted laceration on his throat and covered in gasoline. M.R.'s 9-year old son, C.R.'s, remains were found inside the vehicle. The law enforcement investigation found that M.R. killed C.R., and set C.R.'s remains on fire inside the vehicle after he had a verbal dispute with his wife, D.L. M.R. then made an unsuccessful attempt to end his own life by consuming gasoline and a self-inflicted laceration. A few weeks later, M.R. succumbed to his injuries. The law enforcement investigation revealed that M.R. had sent a video confession to his wife and he also left a letter at the home. CP&P conducted an investigation and M.R. was substantiated for physical abuse.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only): N/A

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☒ Closed (Date Closed: 02/08/2022) ☐ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral: On 01/05/22, a concern was received regarding a domestic violence dispute between D.L. and M.R. The couple reported that they argued regarding finances and that this

was the first argument that had gotten physical. M.R. admitted to pulling his wife's hair and shirt. D.L. reported that she struck M.R. in the face. M.R. was arrested and D.L. did not obtain a restraining order. On 2/02/22, D.L. met with a Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) who conducted safety planning with her and D.L. was also provided with DV resources. C.R. was present during the dispute but did not sustain injuries. The allegation of neglect was not established.

Types of Service Provided:Domestic Violence Liaison

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:On 01/19/22 in home visitation with C.R.

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): DG **Gender:** Male
Date of Birth/Age: 12/11/19 **County of Residence:** Mercer

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 6/14/23 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:** 6/14/23

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 6/14/23, D.G. gained access to an unsecured gun brought into the home by his father, D.G., and shot himself in the head. EMS responded to the home and transported D.G. to Capital Regional Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries. CP&P conducted an investigation and D.G. was substantiated for neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only): T.G. (16 month old male) and T.G (6 month old male) were at home when the incident occurred and were not harmed. Both children remained in the care and custody of their parents.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☒ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral: N/A

Types of Service Provided: N/A

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality: N/A

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): D.M. **Gender:** Male
Date of Birth/Age: 2/20/2023 **County of Residence:** Gloucester

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 3/16/2023 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:** 3/16/2023

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 3/16/2023, CP&P was contacted by the local police department about its response to a 911 call, which was initially reported as cardiac arrest. D.M. was later pronounced deceased at Inspira Hospital and the preliminary autopsy noted D.M.s' death was being ruled a homicide, due to head trauma. The prosecutor's office conducted interviews of both parents and performed a polygraph for each. Police noted no indication of the mother, G.R., being untruthful during her polygraph. Following D.M. Sr.'s polygraph, police questioned him further, and he subsequently admitted to dropping D.M. Jr. onto the changing table causing him to fall to the floor. He admitted to putting D.M. Jr. back down to go to sleep. D.M. Sr. did not make anyone aware of the incident until after D.M. Jr. had passed. According to the Medical Examiner, the cause of death was blunt force trauma with a manner of homicide. D.M. Sr. was arrested and charged with 2nd degree Manslaughter – Committed Recklessly. CP&P conducted an investigation and D.M. Sr. was substantiated for neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):

K.M. (5 year old male) was home and uninjured. There were concerns regarding the mother, G.R.'s, sobriety and mental health and her ability to safely care and protect K.M.; therefore, a Safety Protection Plan was implemented that prohibited the mother, G.R., from having unsupervised contact with K.M. G.R. and K.M. moved in with maternal relatives who supervised the contact between G.R. and K.M.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

☒ Open (Date Opened:) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☐ Not Previously Known

- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:

On 11/9/22, a concern was received that the mother planned on packaging drugs in the presence of K.M. and there were domestic violence concerns between the mother, G.R. and her paramour, D.M.. The mother denied that she was involved in drug trafficking. The couple had been engaging in verbal disputes but denied any physical violence. Both were referred to community-based DV related supportive services. The allegations of neglect were Unfounded.

On 12/1/22, a concern was received regarding domestic violence between G.R. and D.M. The couple had been engaging in verbal disputes but denied any physical violence. Both were referred to community-based DV related supportive services. The allegations of neglect were Unfounded.

On 2/21/23, a concern was received that D.M. Jr, was born substance exposed as a result of his mother's., G.R., prescribed medication. D.M. did not experience any withdrawal symptoms and there were no concerns that G.R. was abusing her medication. The allegations of neglect were Unfounded

Types of Service Provided:DVL consultation

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:2/27/2023 in home visitation with D.M.

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): E.A. **Gender:**Female
Date of Birth/Age: 4/18/17 **County of Residence:**Union

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 1/17/24 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:**1/22/24

Allegation Type: ☒ Abuse ☐ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 1/22/24 Sheriff Officers responded to the family's home to serve an eviction notice. Upon entry into the home, A.A. (mother), R.A. (father) and their 2 children S.A. age 9 and E.A. age 6 were discovered deceased as a result of gunshot wounds. The law enforcement investigation revealed A.A. inflicted the gunshot wounds on her family and she died of a self inflicted gunshot wound. CP&P conducted an investigation and the allegations of Physical Abuse were substantiated against A.A.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):S.A. (female age 9) was shot and succumbed to her injuries.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☒ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:N/A

Types of Service Provided:N/A

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:N/A

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): G.B. **Gender:** Male
Date of Birth/Age: 7/22/22 **County of Residence:** Cumberland

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 10/5/23 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:** 10/13/23

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 10/5/23 G.B., who was diagnosed with a medical condition that impacted his heart, was in the care of his mother S.A., when he was found unresponsive in the bathroom tub. S.A. had placed G.B. in the tub with the water running and she instructed his 7-year old sibling, J.G., to join him in the tub. While G.B. was in the tub, S.A. was in her bedroom. After some time had passed, S.A. heard screaming coming from the bathroom from J.G.. S.A. ran into the bathroom to find G.B. unresponsive in the tub with several inches of water. S.A. attempted to perform CPR and instructed her eldest daughter, Y.G. to call 911. G.B. was transported to Inspira Hospital of Vineland where he was pronounced deceased. CP&P conducted an investigation and S.A. was substantiated for neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):

Y.G (16 year old female), L.G., (14 year old male), J.G., (7 year old female) and S.B., (5 year old male) were home and uninjured. The siblings remained in the care and custody of their parents.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☒ Closed (Date Closed: 09/14/18) ☐ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral: On 7/12/18 a concern was received that S.A. was leaving her 3 year

old and 3 month old children unattended upstairs while she cooked downstairs. There were additional concerns that the children were sleeping in the attic with no windows and no air conditioning and a concern the father, S.B., was abusing drugs. The family denied that the mother was leaving the children unattended while she cooked. The attic had windows and an air conditioner and the family had appropriate sleeping arrangements for all of the children. The father submitted to a urine screen and it was negative for all substances. The allegations of neglect were Unfounded.

Types of Service Provided:Urine screen

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:G.B. was not born at the time of the family's prior involvement.

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): G. G. **Gender:**Female
Date of Birth/Age: 11/20/2022 **County of Residence:**Gloucester

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 2/14/2023 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:**2/14/2023

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 2/14/2023, G.G. was found unresponsive while in the care of her mother, J.S. The father, C.G., observed G.G. laying face down on J.S.'s chest and she was unresponsive. C.G. contacted 911, and G.G. was transported to Jefferson Washington Township Hospital where she was pronounced deceased. Law enforcement obtained a search warrant for the home, and 1 gram of methamphetamine was found in G. G.'s nursery. J.S. submitted to a urine and blood sample where she was positive for the following substances: Amphetamine and Methamphetamine (blood sample), Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Nor-6a-Oxycodol (Oxycodone), and Alprazolam (Xanax) (Urine sample). According to the medical examiner, the cause of death was Sudden Unexplained Death in infancy (SIDS) and co-sleeping was a contributing factor in G. G.'s death. CP&P conducted an investigation and J. S. was substantiated for neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):N/A

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☒ Closed (Date Closed:1/30/2023) ☐ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:

On 11/22/2022, call was received that J.S. had tested positive for both amphetamines and methamphetamines upon hospital admission before giving birth to her daughter G.G. The urine and meconium tests for G.G. were negative at birth. J.S. denied any recent drug use and reported her positive test results were false positives due to over-the-counter flu medications she had recently taken. A safety protection plan (SPP) was implemented that J.S. could not have unsupervised contact with G.G and CP&P also submitted a request to litigate the case. J.S. voluntarily enrolled in out-patient treatment where she received urine screens. She was testing negative for substances and complying with her out-patient services. Litigation was ultimately denied and the SPP was lifted since J.S. was compliant with outpatient treatment and she continued to deny any current substance use concerns. After the litigation was denied and the SPP was lifted, J.S. immediately declined further services and the case was closed. The allegation of Neglect was Not Established.

Types of Service Provided:Urine Screen

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:1/19/2023, in home visitation with G.G.

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): G. M. **Gender:**Female
Date of Birth/Age: 1/18/2023 **County of Residence:**Passaic

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 1/18/2023 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:**1/18/2023

Allegation Type: ☐ Abuse ☒ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 1/18/2023, C.M. gave birth to G.M. unassisted at a friend's home. C.M. cut G.M.'s umbilical, and the cord was not clamped which caused significant blood loss in G.M.. It is unknown how long C.M. waited to contact 911. When EMS arrived, G.M. was not breathing, and she was covered with a towel that was saturated with blood that appeared to come from the umbilical cord. G.M. was transported to St. Joseph's University Medical Center of Paterson. G.M. was diagnosed with Anemia, Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy of newborn, Patent Ductus Ateriosus (PDA), Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO), and she tested positive for cocaine. On 1/20/23, she was transferred to Columbia University Hospital of New York where she received specialized medical care. G.M.'s medical condition did not improve and she remained critically ill. On 1/21/23, she was pronounced deceased. Law enforcement revealed that C.M. was under the influence of cocaine when she gave birth to G.M. According to the Medical Examiner, the cause of death was complications of precipitous delivery with acute maternal and fetal/neonatal cocaine intoxication. CP&P conducted an investigation and C.M. was substantiated for Neglect.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):N/A

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☒ Open (Date Opened:7/28/2020) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☐ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:

On 7/23/17, a concern was received that C.M. tested positive for heroin and cocaine at the birth of her eldest child B.D. The child was born prematurely at 28 weeks and required specialized medical care. C.M. submitted to two urine screens and tested positive for cocaine and heroin. She underwent a substance abuse evaluation and did not comply with the recommendations and treatment. CP&P obtained custody of B.D. and upon her discharge from the hospital, she was placed in an out-of-home placement. The allegation of neglect was not established.

C.M. engaged in substance abuse treatment and received residential treatment. She successfully completed treatment, had maintained her sobriety; obtained housing and was employed. B.D. was reunified with C.M. in December of 2018. C.M. established a good relationship with B.D.'s resource parent who remained a resource for the family. After the reunification, the resource parent was named as B.D.'s godparent.

On 7/28/20, a concern was received that C.M. had recently relapsed and B.D. was residing between C.M. and her godparent's homes. C.M. admitted that she relapsed but denied using while she was caring for B.D. Both C.M. and the godparent confirmed that over the past few months B.D. had been in the care of the godparent the majority of the time. A Safety Protection Plan was implemented that C.M. could not have unsupervised contact with B.D. C.M. reengaged in substance abuse treatment. She had been testing negative for substances and was complying with her out-patient services. In October 2020, the Safety Protection Plan was lifted since C.M. was compliant with outpatient treatment and her urine screens were negative for any illicit substances. The allegation of neglect was not established.

On 1/2/21, a concern was received that C.M. was under the influence of substances while caring for B.D. C.M. was engaged in substance use treatment and had recently tested positive for a heroin metabolite, cocaine metabolite and fentanyl, and her urine screen was diluted. CP&P conducted an emergency removal of B.D. and she was placed with her godparent. The allegation of neglect was substantiated.

C.M. was not compliant with substance abuse treatment. In 2022, C.M. had stopped engaging with CP&P, she was not participating in visitation with B.D. and her whereabouts were unknown. B.D. remained in the custody and care of CP&P.

Types of Service Provided:Urine Screen, Substance Use Evaluation, Psychological Evaluation, Individual Counseling

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:N/A

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☒ **Child Fatality** ☐ **Child Near Fatality**

Victim Information:

Identifier (Initials): S.A. **Gender:**Female
Date of Birth/Age: 4/29/14 **County of Residence:**Union

Incident Information:

Date of Incident: 1/17/24 **Date CP&P Notified of Incident:**1/22/24

Allegation Type: ☒ Abuse ☐ Neglect

Disposition: ☒ Substantiated ☐ Suspected/Pending

Description of Incident: On 1/22/24 Sheriff Officers responded to the family's home to serve an eviction notice. Upon entry into the home, A.A. (mother), R.A. (father) and their 2 children S.A. age 9 and E.A. age 6 were discovered deceased as a result of gunshot wounds. The law enforcement investigation revealed A.A. inflicted the gunshot wounds on her family and she died of a self inflicted gunshot wound. CP&P conducted an investigation and the allegations of Physical Abuse were substantiated against A.A.

Other Possible Child Victims and Living Arrangement (Gender/age of siblings or other children residing with the child victim or perpetrator only):E.A. (female age 6) was shot and succumbed to her injuries.

Historical Information:

CP&P's Involvement with the Child Victim or Family PRIOR to Fatality or Near Fatality:

- ☐ Open (Date Opened:) ☐ Closed (Date Closed:) ☒ Not Previously Known
- ☐ The victim or family was known to CP&P but the details of such involvement are not pertinent to the fatality or near fatality and not subject to disclosure.

If previously known and the information is pertinent to the fatality or near fatality, the date and disposition of each prior referral:N/A

Types of Service Provided:N/A

Date and type of CP&P's last contact with the child victim prior to fatality or near fatality:N/A