

Statement on the death of a two-year-old boy

Issue Date: March 12, 2020

On November 7, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a 2-year-old boy, Khayden Hudgens.

Khayden arrived at the hospital with severe bruising and other bodily injuries. Doctors determined the injuries were non-accidental. Khayden died on November 8, 2017.

Khayden had been in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Jeremy Lundberg, prior to arriving at the hospital.

There were no other children residing in the home at the time of Khayden's death.

On December 6, 2019, the Department substantiated the abuse allegations against Mr. Lundberg. The Department substantiated the allegations after the joint investigation was completed in November 2019.

The Department also determined that the child's mother, Theresa Miller, failed to protect Khayden by leaving him in the care of Mr. Lundberg.

DCS has received no prior reports involving Kayden Hudgens and Mr. Lundberg.

DCS has received the following reports involving Ms. Miller:

On July 30, 2017, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Miller and Khayden's father neglected Khayden's half-siblings. According to the report, the children were exposed to domestic violence in the home. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to remove the children. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

After Khayden's death, on January 29, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Miller and other adults neglected Khayden's half-siblings. According to the report, the children were not being properly fed or cared for. The DCS investigation uncovered evidence that warranted taking the children into DCS custody. A dependency petition was filed and the allegations were substantiated against Ms. Miller. A relative of the children was eventually granted guardianship and the case was closed.