

Statement on the death of 5-year-old boy Roman Burke

Date Issued: November 4, 2024

On April 15, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 5-year-old Roman Burke, who had been involved in a motor vehicle crash. The child was unrestrained in a vehicle when it was rear-ended by a SUV. The child was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Following an assessment of child safety, the sibling involved in the accident was assessed as safe with their parents with an in-home safety plan.

The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse and neglect by the father, Michael Burke, who drove intoxicated with the child unrestrained in an all-terrain vehicle.

The Departments provided services to the family.

DCS received the following prior report involving Roman Burke:

On April 14, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Roman Burke by their mother. The report alleged Roman was born substance exposed to marijuana. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. A safety plan was put in place and the family agreed to participate with in-home services. The family successfully completed services and the case was closed on August 13, 2018. The allegation of neglect by the mother was substantiated.