

Ben Henderson, Interim Director Katie Hobbs, Governor

Statement on the death of 2-month-old female Sophia Holliman

Date Issued: November 29, 2024

On January 3, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-month-old Sophia Holliman, who was found unresponsive and pronounced deceased at the home. The medical examiner determined the child suffered from blunt force trauma to the head while in the care of her father, Kyle Holliman.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as being safe with the other parent.

On August 19, 2024, Kyle Holliman was convicted of one count manslaughter-domestic violence and one count child abuse-domestic violence in relation to the fatality of his daughter. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison and 3 years of standard probation following his release.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior report involving Mr. Holliman:

On November 20, 2023, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to Sophia Holliman by her mother and Mr. Holliman. The report alleged Sophia had bruising to her ear and chin. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and community resources were offered to the family. The case was closed on December 10, 2023.