

### Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Harley Hiatt

County: Polk

Date of Birth: October 14, 2015

Date of Death: July 31, 2018

Report Number: 2018-627835

#### Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Harley Hiatt	2 years old	Decedent
Shannon Short	26 years old	Mother (resident)
Christian Thompson	26 years old	Mother's paramour (resident)

#### Circumstances Surrounding Death

On July 31, 2018, the two-year-old child passed away after suffering apparent physical injuries. The cause and manner of death are pending.

According to the family, the following information was provided and the investigation is closed.

On July 27, 2018, the mother's paramour Christian sent the mother a picture of Harley with significant bruising to his face. Christian informed her he did not know what had happened to Harley but he may have run into a wall. The mother felt Harley's injuries needed medical attention, but she did not call 911 right away because she believed the Department would take Harley away.

On July 31, 2018, the mother called 911 at 2:45 a.m.

On July 31, 2018, Harley Hiatt was pronounced deceased at 6:55 a.m. Harley was noted to have trauma to the face and a CT scan revealed bleeding on the brain.

The mother and paramour consented to drugs screens and were positive for tetrahydrocannabinol and alcohol.

The paramour admitted to hitting Harley with a belt in the face accidentally when trying to spank him last week causing the injuries to his face. The paramour also admitted to hitting Harley and causing injuries approximately a month ago.

On September 25, 2018, the Department investigation into the death of Harley Hiatt was closed with the following findings:

- Verified Findings of Death, Medical neglect, Internal Injury and Physical Injury as to Harley Hiatt.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Harley Hiatt.

On July 31, 2018, the mother Shannon Short was arrested and charged with Child Neglect, Violation of Probation, Marijuana Possession, and Possession of Paraphernalia.

On August 3, 2018, the mother was charged with Adult in Home Failed to Report Child Abuse within the home, Neglect of a Child with Great Bodily Harm, Abuse of a Child without Great Bodily Harm, and Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child.

On July 31, 2018, the paramour Christian Thompson was arrested on two counts of Child Abuse, Child Neglect, Marijuana Possession, and Possession of Paraphernalia.

On August 3, 2018, additional charges were filed against Christian Thompson of Aggravated Battery, Neglect of a Child with Great Bodily Harm, Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child, and First Degree Murder. The State Attorney's Office has filed documents seeking the death penalty.

On August 28, 2017, District Ten Chief Medical Examiner Stephen J. Nelson, M.D., completed an autopsy of Harley Hiatt. ME# 18-10-FA-421.

Cause of Death: Multiple Blunt Force Traumatic Injuries Assault  
Manner of Death: Homicide

**Other Children in the Family:**

Grief counseling could not be provided due to arrest of the mother and paramour.

**Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family**

The family does not have any current involvement with the department.

**Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family**

The family does not have any prior abuse report history in Florida.

  
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Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist  
Timothy Starnes

10/10/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Central Region Family Safety Program Manager  
Alger Studstill

10-8-18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

