



Public Information Release

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Madison County Child Fatality Review 2023

MADISON COUNTY – The Madison County Child Fatality Review (CFR) Committee meets annually to review the deaths of children under the age of 18 who were residents of Madison County. The CFR Committee identifies trends and gaps in community systems for system improvement and make recommendations in policy and practice to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future. The Madison County CFR Committee not only makes recommendations, but tasks local agencies, who serve our children, with changing policies and practices within their agencies that would reduce the incidence of death and improve the health and wellness of Madison County’s children. The CFR serves to educate the public and community leaders about the cause and preventability of childhood deaths to spark changes in community systems to better identify risk factors, service gaps, and prevention strategies.

The Madison County CFR Committee reviewed a total of 7 deaths that occurred in 2023 and 2 deaths that were pending from 2022.

Of the total deaths reviewed, 4 deaths were involved in a motor vehicle crash, 3 deaths were natural causes which include prematurity, congenital anomalies or birth defects, and 1 death where the cause was undetermined and will be reviewed next year. In addition, Madison County Coroner Dr. James Kaehr released the autopsy results for the infant, known as Madison Jane Doe, from which, he said, he was unable to determine cause or manner of death (<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/local/2023/12/13/autopsy-released-plain-city-madison-baby-doe-infant-death-case/71884684007/>). If anyone has information please contact the Plain City Police Department.

The 4 deaths that were involved in a motor vehicle crash were all preventable. Factors that led to the motor vehicle crashes included high speed, distracted driving, failure to wear a seatbelt, and impaired driving.

5 ways to practice safe driving and prevent motor vehicle child fatalities:

1. Always wear your seatbelt
2. Follow the speed limits
3. Pay attention to traffic signals
4. No cellphones while driving (Includes phone calls, texting, navigation, music, etc.)
5. Don’t drive impaired (Includes drugs, drinking, and drowsiness)

If you have questions about the Madison County CFR Committee , please contact Madison County Public Health at 740-852-3065 or at info@madisonpublichealth.org.