

Child Fatality Summary

Child's Name: Riley Fowler

County: Brevard

Date of Birth: 03/01/2016

Date of Death: 05/12/2019

Report Number: 2019-156176

Family Composition Chart

Name	Age at Time of the Incident	Relationship with Deceased Child
Riley Fowler	3 years old	Child Victim
██████████	5 years old	Sibling
██████████	6 years old	Sibling
Amber Fowler	35 years old	Mother
Jason Fowler	37 years old	Father

Circumstances Surrounding Death

On May 12, 2019, the three-year-old child passed away after suffering a drowning incident on May 11, 2019.

According to the family, the following information was provided.

On May 11, 2019, Riley, ██████████ and ██████████ were swimming in the family's pool. Riley had on floaties on each arm that connected across the chest. The mother was approximately 10 or 15 feet away mopping the floor inside the home. The mother would check on the children every 1 to 2 minutes. There are large sliding glass doors from the residence to the pool area, they were open, so the mother could see and hear the children. She stepped away for approximately 5 minutes to rinse the mop bucket, and ██████████ ran inside to let the mother know that Riley was drowning.

The mother ran outside and found Riley floating face down in the water with no floaties on. The mother pulled Riley from the pool, began CPR and called 911 at 12:13 p.m. Dispatch instructed the mother while she performed CPR. Emergency Medical Services arrived at 12:20 p.m. and transported Riley to Cape Canaveral Hospital arriving at 12:35 p.m., over an hour a pulse was obtained, and Riley was then life-flighted to Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando.

On May 12, 2019, Riley Fowler was pronounced deceased at 10:50 p.m.

The mother consented to a drug screen and was negative.

The Child Protection Team doctor completed a medical consultation which concluded with findings of Death Due to Abuse/ Neglect and Inadequate Supervision- Parent/ Caregiver Absent, as the drowning could have been avoided with appropriate supervision.

The Brevard County Sheriff's Office investigated the death of Riley Fowler (2019-169893). Their investigation was closed as unfounded.

On May 15, 2019, District Nine Associate Medical Examiner Sara H. Zydowicz, M.D., completed an autopsy of Riley Fowler. ME# 19-09-00778.

Cause of Death: Anoxic Encephalopathy following Resuscitated Cardiopulmonary Arrest Drowning

Manner of Death: Accident

Final Anatomic Diagnoses:

1. Drowning
 - a. A 3-year-old submerged in residential pool
 - b. Resuscitated cardiopulmonary arrest
 - c. Metabolic acidosis
 - d. Severe anoxic brain injury
 - e. Acute respiratory failure with hypoxemia
 - f. Hypothermia
 - g. Hypotension

II. Status post vascular organ recovery

Toxicology Analysis: See laboratory report.

Conclusion: *In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body, and review of the available medical records and toxicology report, it is my opinion that Riley Fowler, a 3-year-old toddler boy, died as a result of anoxic encephalopathy following resuscitated cardiopulmonary arrest due to drowning.*

On July 9, 2018, the investigation was closed with:

- Verified Death and Inadequate Supervision as to Riley Fowler, with Amber Fowler as the caregiver responsible.
- No Indicators of Inadequate Supervision as to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- No Indicators of Threatened Harm as to [REDACTED]

Other Children in the Family:

The mother and father were provided with contact information for North Star grief counseling

Riley was sheltered in 2017 from her biological parents [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in March 2019.

Summary of Current Agency Involvement with Family

The parents do not have any services involvement as caregivers.

Summary of Prior Agency Involvement with Family

The parents do not have any prior abuse report history.



Central Region Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

9/17/2020
Date



Central Region Family Safety Program Manager
John P. Hammett

9/17/20
Date