

Youth Who Should Have Been Protected



Musiah Wadud, age 4

May 5, 2022

- **At the time of his death**, Musiah had over 100 marks on his body; including skull fractures, ligature marks in various stages of healing, numerous bruises and lacerations.
- **He and his brother** had been placed in the custody of their aunt and her boyfriend.
- **Three other young children** were removed from the aunt's home by Cuyahoga County's Department of Child and Family Services. One child required medical attention.

[Link to additional details.](#)



Curtis Witcher, age 3

June 14, 2023

- **Curtis's mother** gave birth to six children, and they were all removed from her care. But Curtis was returned to the custody of his mother when he was two and a half years old.
- His body was found in a stroller in Family Dollar in Cleveland.
- His loss of life was due to blunt force trauma at the hands of his mother.

[Link to additional details.](#)

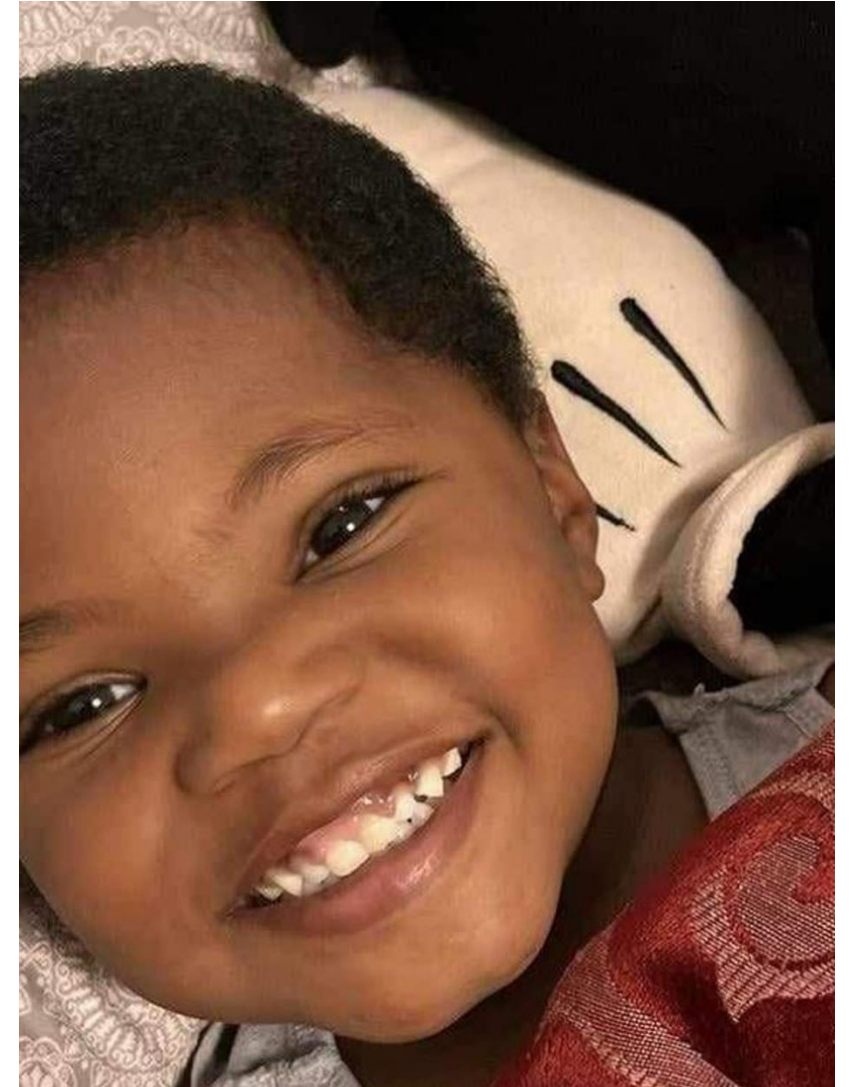


Darnell Taylor, age 5

Feb. 16, 2024

- **Darnell's loss of life** was due to suffocation, after which his body was placed in a sewer.
- **Darnell's grandmother** repeatedly contacted Franklin County Children Services to report concerns about his safety.
- **Both Darnell's maternal and paternal grandparents** had gone to court to get visitation for their grandson, saying Maye had blocked their calls and they weren't able to get ahold of the couple to have regular visitation

[Link to more details.](#)

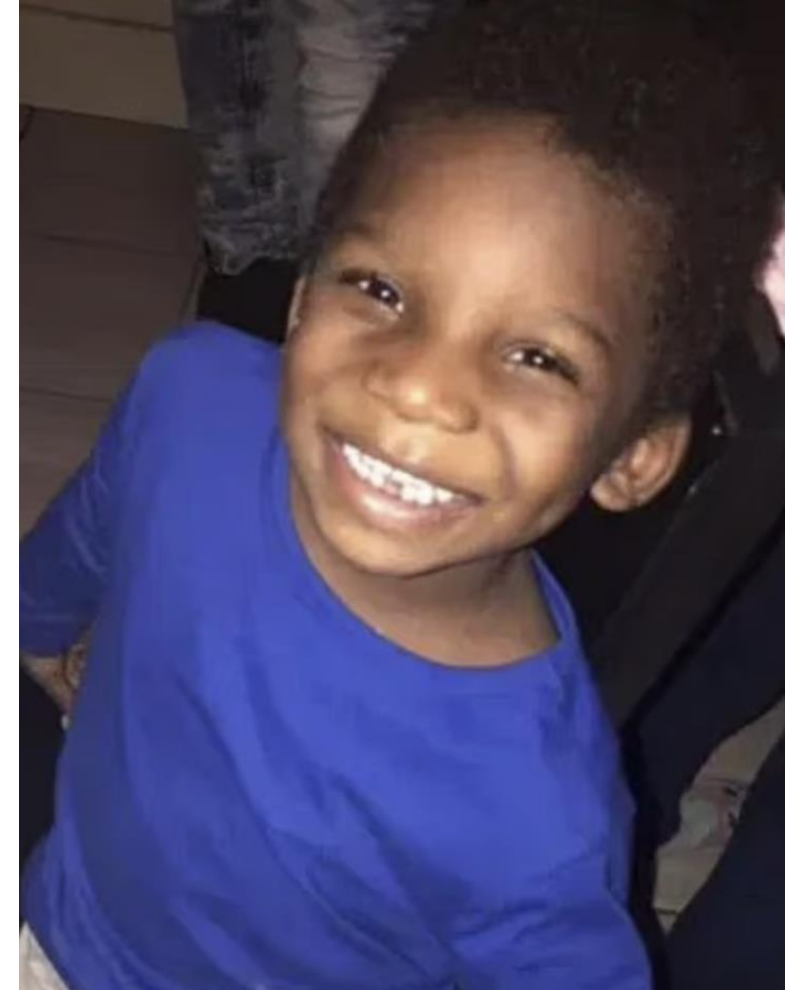


Martonio Wilder, age 8

June 28, 2024

- **Prior to Martonio's loss of life**, the police were called to his residence 13 times over an 18-month period. This includes 3 times for domestic violence, twice for a domestic disturbance, and once for a stabbing.
- **Franklin County Children Services** chose to use an alternative response rather than a traditional one. A traditional response could have saved Martonio's life.
- **The coroner reported that Martonio was severely malnourished.** His autopsy photos revealed visible bruises around his eyes, nose and mouth, as well as lacerations and cuts on his face and back.

[Link to additional details.](#)



Emmanuel Mims, age 3

Jan. 6, 2025

- **Emmanuel Mims** died from burns he suffered after allegedly spilling boiling water.
- **Franklin County Children's Services** said it had been working with the family prior to the child's death, and that two other children living in that apartment had since been placed in their care.
- **Police records obtained in January** showed that officers had gone to the home in South Franklinton on calls for domestic disputes, domestic violence, person with a knife, person with a gun and a missing person report.

[Link to additional details.](#)



Kei'Mani Latigue, age 13

March 24, 2025

- **Kei'Mani's father** raped her, cut off her hands and cut her throat.
- **Kei'Mani's teachers** had called Lucas County Children Services to report previous concerns, including visible bruising and things Kei'Mani had self-reported to teachers, peers and the bus driver.
- **Lucas County Children Services** said the agency investigated multiple reports regarding the care of Kei'Mani Latigue, but never found any evidence that would lead to removing the girl from her former placement.

[Link to additional details.](#)



Ja'Kai Smith, age 4

April 10, 2025

- **Ja'Kai suffered abuse and neglect** before his death, which resulted from multiple brain bleeds and hypothermia.
- **Less than a month before his death**, Franklin County Children Services received a neglect report involving Ja'Kai.
- **Two years earlier, on December 2023**, Franklin County Children Services received a report of endangerment concerns but caseworkers closed the case without taking action, Varner said in the statement.
- **At the time of his death**, Ja'Kai was so malnourished that he weighed only 35 pounds.

[Link to additional details.](#)



Eva Bretz, age 6

April 13, 2025

- **At the time of her death**, Eva had visible injuries, including bruising and ligature marks around her neck, as well as a severed liver and trauma to other portions of her body.
- **According to the autopsy report**, her injuries demonstrated a pattern of violence occurring for at least weeks, and probably months prior to the child's death.
- **Franklin County Children Services** confirmed that Eva's three siblings were taken from Fagan's care. Two older siblings are in the agency's custody, and a younger sibling was placed with their biological father.

[Link to additional details.](#)

