

On December 11th, 2008, skeletal remains of a female child were found in the woods approximately ¼ mile from the maternal grandparents' home which was the primary residence of the child and her mother.

On December 19th, 2008, District Nine Chief Medical Examiner Jan Garavaglia identified the remains as belonging to Caylee Marie Anthony through nuclear DNA testing. The Manner of Death was Homicide; the Cause of Death was Homicide by Unknown Means. These findings were determined by the circumstances of the case, the scene where the remains were found, and the examination of the body. The toxicology report was still pending at the time the Department's report was received.

The child was reported missing on July 15th, 2008, one month after she had last been seen with anyone other than the mother. The mother was first arrested on charges of child neglect and providing false statements to Law Enforcement on July 17th, 2008. The mother was later arrested 2 additional times, August 29th, 2008 and September 15th, 2008, on charges of economic fraud unrelated to Caylee's disappearance.

The mother was indicted on October 14th, 2008 on seven criminal counts including first degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter, and four counts of providing false information. She was in jail when the new report was received in December 2008.

On January 9th, 2009, the CPI completed field visit to the Orange County Jail to interview the mother, Casey Anthony. An Officer advised the CPI the mother declined to be interviewed on the advice of her attorney.

On January 9th, 2009, the CPI completed a home visit to interview the maternal grandparents. The CPI met with the maternal grandfather, George Anthony, informed him of the new report and requested interviews with him and his wife. Mr. Anthony indicated the maternal grandmother was not up for speaking with the CPI that day. The CPI provided Mr. Anthony with a card who indicated he would get back in touch with the investigator.

On January 16th, 2009, the CPI contacted the Baez Law Firm and spoke with the mother's attorney. The CPI requested an interview with the mother in the presence of her attorney. The request was declined.

On January 23rd, 2009, the Program Administrator spoke with the Medical Examiner, Dr. Jan Garavaglia, in regards to the autopsy findings. Dr. Garavaglia indicated the manner of death had been ruled a Homicide and the cause of death was Homicide by Undetermined Means. The toxicology was still pending. The remains were skeletonized with duck tape found around the skull and mandible.

On June 19th, 2009, the Medical Examiner's autopsy was released. Please see Section B below.

On July 9th, 2009, the CPI made two attempts to contact the maternal grandparents by phone, which were unsuccessful.

After thorough investigation, including the review of critical evidence provided by law enforcement as well as the medical examiner, the Department of Children and Families has closed the following maltreatments in the death investigation of Caylee Marie Anthony. The mother is the caregiver responsible for the verified maltreatments of Death, Threatened Harm and Failure to Protect.

Death: Verified. This investigation is closed with "Verified" findings of the death maltreatment. The Department of Children and Families concludes that the actions or lack of actions by the alleged perpetrator ultimately resulted or contributed in the death of the child/vic. The remains of the child were found on December 11th 2008. Medical Examiner Dr. Jan Garavaglia documented the manner of death as a homicide with the cause of death as undetermined means. The child had been missing for 31 days before she was reported missing by a relative. The initial report to law enforcement was made by the maternal grandmother, not the primary caregiver – the mother. While the cause of death is not known, the Department concludes the death to be as a result of abuse or neglect based on the manner of death by the ME, and the state of the body upon recovery. On October 14, 2008, the mother was incarcerated and further charges were filed to include First Degree Murder, Aggravated Child Abuse, Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child and 4 counts of False Information to LEO regarding a Missing Person.

Failure to protect: Verified. This report is closed with "Verified" findings as to the allegation of Failure to Protect. The mother initially reported leaving the child with a caregiver whom she did not know well, and failed to obtain accurate contact information for the caregiver (including an address). The mother stated that she believed the child was kidnapped by the caregiver but did not report the kidnapping. The child was missing for 31 days before the maternal grandmother, not mother and primary caregiver, reported the child missing. It is concluded that the mother's failure to act during those 31 days, ultimately resulted in her inability to protect the child from harm. In addition, this failure to protect delayed and interfered with a law enforcement investigation and best efforts to safely recover the child.

Threatened Harm: Verified. This report is closed with "Verified" findings of Threatened Harm. Based upon the mother's statements to this child protective investigator and law enforcement, the mother acknowledged that she knew the child was missing for 31 days and believed the child was kidnapped; however, she failed to contact law enforcement for assistance in locating/recovering the child. Law enforcement became involved because the maternal grandmother

contacted them with concerns for the child's safety. The mother was uncooperative with law enforcement's efforts to locate the child and provided statements which were found to be disingenuous. While the child's remains were located, the medical examiner's office reported the remains had been decomposing prior to the time the child was reported missing.

Asphyxiation: Not Substantiated. This report is closed with "Not Substantiated" findings of Asphyxiation. The Medical Examiner's report stated that there were "several overlapping pieces of duct tape over the anterior portion of the lower skull, including mandible and a portion of the maxilla. Duct tape was still attached to the scalp hairs."

Physical Injury: No indicators. This report is closed with "No Indicators" of Physical Injury. The Department does not have physical evidence to support that the child's death was a result of inflicted physical injuries. Per the Medical Examiner's report, there were no documented injuries as the body was primarily a skeleton with very little tissue left other than under the areas of duct tape.

B. Autopsy Results

During the week after December 11th, 2008, District Nine Chief Medical Examiner, Jan Garavaglia, MD, performed an autopsy on the child's remains. On December 19th, 2008, Dr. Garavaglia identified the remains as belonging to Caylee Marie Anthony.

Manner of Death: Homicide

Date of Death: (Found) 12-11-08

Cause of Death: Homicide by Undetermined Means

Findings

- I. Homicide by undetermined means
 - A. Completely skeletonized, approximately 3 year old child found in a wooded overgrown area.
 1. Reportedly last seen alive 06-16-08
 2. Reported missing to law enforcement 07-15-08
 - B. Portion of skeletal remains intermixed with two plastic trash bags and a canvas laundry type bag
 1. Postmortem scattering of skeleton
 - a. Vertebrae found clustered in a area away from skull and bags
 - b. Clustering of other anatomic units were found in other locations
 2. Skeleton completely disarticulated with no soft tissue attached, and minimal adipocere found on several bones

3. Small roots adhered to and growing into vertebral bodies
- C. Several overlapping pieces of duct tape, over the anterior portion of the lower skull, including mandible and a portion of the maxilla
 1. Duct tape still attached to scalp hairs
 2. Mandible still in approximate anatomic position with no visible attached soft tissue beneath the duct tape
- D. No antemortem trauma evident on the skeleton
- E. Toxicology testing detected no drugs
 1. Specimens used for examination
 - a. Bone from left femur
 - b. Cancellous bone scrapings taken from the medullary cavity of the left femur
 - c. Hair removed for toxicology testing included both tied strands of hair and cut squares of hair from the hair mat
 - d. Saline washings of cranial cavity.

Conclusion/Opinion of the Medical Examiner: "As often is the case with the skeletonized individual, the exact cause of death cannot be determined with certainty. The manner of death is an opinion based on available information, including circumstances surrounding the death, information from the scene, and examination of the skeletal remains.

The circumstances of death are that this toddler child, with no known medical history, was not reported missing to authorities for approximately 30 days. This child's remains were eventually found in a wooded, overgrown area, discarded with two trash bags and a laundry bag. Although there is no trauma evident on the skeleton, there is duct tape over the lower facial region still attached to head hair. This duct tape was clearly placed prior to decomposition, keeping the mandible in place.

The clustering of vertebrae at the scene separate from the location of the bags and skull indicate animal activity occurring at this location after decomposition started, but before complete disarticulation of the skeleton. This indicates the body was put in this location prior to complete skeletonization. The roots growing into the vertebrae and bags indicate that the body was placed there months prior to being found. There is nothing inconsistent with the body being placed there soon after the date of being last seen alive.

It is, thus, my opinion that, although the cause of death cannot be determined with certainty, the manner of death is homicide."

C. Services/Other Children

There are no other children in this family.

D. Law Enforcement Involvement/Criminal Investigation

Orange County Sheriff's Department Detective Yuri Melich and Sergeant John Allen investigated the death of Caylee Marie Anthony; see case number 08-69208.

July 15: The Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) was notified that Caylee Anthony has been missing since June 9th, 2008 and the following events were reported.

June 9: The mother allegedly dropped Caylee off at her babysitter, Zenaida Fernandez Gonzalez, who lived at the Sawgrass Apartments. The maternal grandmother initially stated this was the last day she had seen Caylee.

June 15: The maternal grandmother and the child went to visit the maternal great grandfather at an assisted living facility in Mount Dora on Father's Day. Pictures found on a laptop contained dated photos from the visit.

June 30: The car that the mother had been using, a 1998 Pontiac, was towed from the Amscot store on Goldenrod Road and Colonial Drive.

July 12: After they had not seen Caylee for some time, the maternal grandparents were concerned and confronted the mother.

July 15: The maternal grandparents went to Johnson's Wrecker Service to pick up the 1998 Pontiac after receiving a letter in the mail.

July 16: OCSO spoke to Zenaida Gonzalez who says she did not know Casey or Caylee Anthony. OCSO accompanied the mother to Universal Studios where she said she worked. After leading them to a building, she admitted she was no longer employed there.

July 17: Casey Anthony was arrested and charged with child neglect, providing false statements to law enforcement, and interfering with a criminal investigation. The judge denied bond because she showed a "woeful disregard for the welfare of her child."

August 7: OCSO stated a call the mother claimed she received on July 15th in which Caylee talked to her probably did not happen. Phone records showed there was no call to the mother's cell phone at the time the call was supposed to have taken place.

August 27: OCSO announced the results of the air-sample tests from the mother's car showed that the trunk once held a decomposing body. The evidence showed that the dead body in the trunk likely belonged to Caylee.

August 31: OCSO confirmed the hair found in the trunk of the mother's car belonged to Caylee.

September 1: OCSO investigators stated laboratory evidence suggested there was a "strong probability" that Caylee was dead.

September 3: Preliminary results from the FBI lab indicate that chloroform was found in the back of the mother's car.

October 14: A grand jury indicted Casey Anthony on seven counts: first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter, and four counts of providing false information.

October 21: The child neglect charges were dropped against the mother after she was indicted.

October 24: Forensic tests on the trunk of the mother's car were released. The air sample tests showed evidence of human decomposition, that a hair found in the trunk is "microscopically similar" to hair found in Caylee's hair brush and it confirmed the presence of chloroform.

December 11: The skeletal remains of a small child were found one-quarter mile from the Anthony home.

December 12: Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary reported the skeletal remains' measurements and hair color match that of Caylee Anthony.

December 19: The Medical Examiner confirmed that the skeletal remains found in the woods near the Anthony home belonged to Caylee Marie Anthony. Manner of Death was Homicide and Cause of Death was Homicide by Undetermined Means.

In July 2011, Casey Anthony was convicted on four misdemeanor counts of providing false information to law enforcement and not guilty on all other charges (first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter).

II. Family History

The family consisted of the mother Casey Anthony (22 years old) and the child victim Caylee Marie Anthony (then 2 years old). The mother and child's permanent residence was with the maternal grandparents George Anthony (56 years old) and Cindy Anthony (50 years old).

The mother alleged the child's father's name is Eric. She would not provide a last name and denied he had any contact with the child, nor did he pay child support. The information the mother provided regarding his whereabouts was inconsistent, and his identity was not determined.

A. Summary of the Investigation of Prior Abuse Reports

<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
7/17/08	2008-436727	No Services

CSA 2008-436727

Allegations:

"It is believed that Caylee has been missing for five weeks. Her mother did not report this information to law enforcement and indicated she was doing her own investigation. Last night Caylee's mother was arrested for charges due to her disappearance. She was charged with child neglect, providing false statements and obstruction of a criminal investigation. The mother has not been forthcoming

or cooperative with locating Caylee. She is currently at the Orange County Jail and was denied bond; so it is unknown how long she will remain in custody. Prior to the knowledge that Caylee was missing her maternal grandparents made attempts to see her and the mother provided excuses so they became suspicious and law enforcement was contacted."

"On 08/21/2008, the mother was released from jail. The mother was charged with child neglect. It is alleged that the mother murdered Caylee, but her body is missing for two days."

"On 08/29/08, a supplemental report was received. Caylee is in Orlando. Caylee is probably dead. There was no reasonable cause presented for this belief at this time."

Investigation:

On July 17th, 2008 Program Administrator (PA) contacted the Orange County Sheriff's Office and was advised that the mother "had lied to them about pretty much everything" when she gave her statement on July 15th, 2008. The PA requested to interview the mother and was advised the request would be staffed and they would get back to the PA.

The CPI summarized the following information from the OSCO arrest affidavit,

"The mother led the OCSO on a wild goose chase [chase] all over town regarding her prior whereabouts and that of Caylee. The mother claimed she last saw Caylee with her babysitter Zenaida Gonzalez on June 9th, 2008 and had not been able to locate her or Caylee. The address the mother provided for the babysitter had been vacant for 142 days. Cynthia Anthony became concerned, found Casey and brought her home. The mother initiated the call to the OCSO because the maternal grandmother was going to do it. The mother's car was found abandoned and towed to a lot. The mother initially stated she left the child victim with Ms. Gonzalez while she went to work, but it was learned she has not been employed since 2006. OCSO located Ms. Gonzalez by her cell phone number that she filled out on a guest card at the apartment complex but never rented. Ms. Gonzalez met with OCSO and denied knowing the mother or child victim. The mother's paramour Anthony Lazzaro had known the mother since May 2008, began dating in June 2008 and he did not know the child victim was missing until contacted by OCSO. He last saw the child victim on June 2nd, 2008 by the pool at his apartment complex. The mother lived with him, she always made excuses for the child victim's whereabouts and he had no indication the child victim was missing or endangered. All collateral contacts OCSO spoke with indicated the mother was a habitual liar. A friend of the mother's, Christine Chester, reported she last saw the mother with Caylee on June 12th, 13th, or 14th, 2008 when they went for a walk."

A neighbor stated the mother borrowed a shovel for approximately one hour in June 2008.

The 911 calls were released to the Media. During the first call the grandmother wanted her daughter arrested for grand larceny for stealing the car (1998 Pontiac) and money. During the second call, the grandmother reported that Caylee had been missing for a month and that the babysitter stole her. When she and her husband had retrieved the car from the tow company, she said "it smelled like there's been a dead damn body in the car". She later stated the smell could have been from pizza or a dead squirrel. The mother Casey could be heard in the background saying that Caylee had been missing for 31 days, since June 15th, 2008.

On July 29th, 2008, OCSO advised the Department to not interview the subjects of the investigation. On August 21st, 2008, OCSO granted the Department permission to proceed with interviews.

On August 25th, 2008, the CPI interviewed Casey and Cindy Anthony at the family's residence. George Anthony was not home. The mother and grandmother were interviewed together and stated that OCSO was misrepresenting the mother; they were more inclined to criminally prosecute her than finding Caylee.

Casey Anthony told the maternal grandmother stop "butting in" so she could explain her side. The mother insisted that Zenaida Gonzalez had been her babysitter for a year and a half, while the mother worked seasonally for Universal in event planning. They had her pay stubs despite what OSCO had reported. The mother indicated Zenaida took good care of Caylee, and she never had reason to suspect anything. Zenaida was approximately twenty-four years old, not in her thirties, and OCSO never showed her the correct photo. She stated, "To my knowledge OCSO has not followed up on any of the leads my family has provided".

Casey Anthony reported that her residence was "very fluid"; sometimes she would stay at her boyfriend's and sometimes at her parents. At that point, the mother declined to discuss anything further due to the criminal case and stated, "Zaneida has my child".

The mother and grandmother explained that Caylee had been cared for and raised at the grandparents' home. Normal punishment would be to sit her down and talk to her. The grandmother denied the child ever had any unexplained marks or bruises.

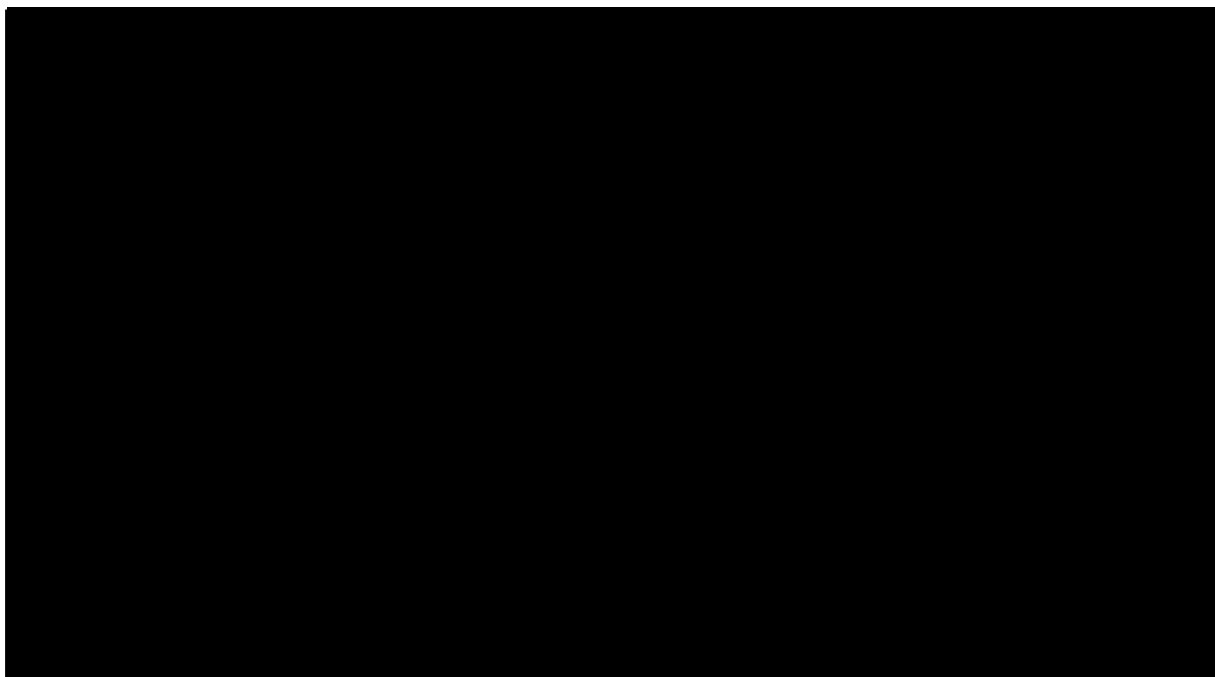
The mother stated, "OCSO thinks I sold or killed my daughter and I did not. OCSO is trying to break me and make me confess to something I did not do. I am innocent and as a result there is nothing anybody can do. The documents they released today [August 25th, 2008] are an attempt to put pressure on me."

The CPI asked the mother about the thirty-one day lapse in telling her parents that Caylee was missing. The mother responded that she did not have a "falling out" with her parents; she was just living with her boyfriend. When she could not find Caylee she began to retrace her steps, tried to call Zenaida, and when that did not work she came home and told her parents. She admitted to the CPI that she made "some bad decisions" during that time period. The mother indicated her "gut feeling" was that Caylee was alive and that she would be found soon. At this point, she again declined to comment any further due to the criminal case.

On September 4th, 2008, the CPI completed a follow up interview with the mother in order to inform her of the supplemental report. The allegation was discussed with the mother who advised the allegations were false and stated; "It sounds like something OCSO would say. OCSO has spent more time trying to find me guilty without any evidence than trying to find Caylee." The mother also stated, "Either Zaneida or somebody else has Caylee." The CPI noted the mother referred to Caylee in the third person during the interview

Decision Regarding Findings and Disposition:

The Department closed the investigation on September 14th, 2008 with Verified Findings of Inadequate Supervision and Threatened Harm and No Indicators of Physical Injury based on the statements of subjects, law enforcement, and collateral contacts. The Department determined that a new report would be generated [REDACTED] No other services were offered

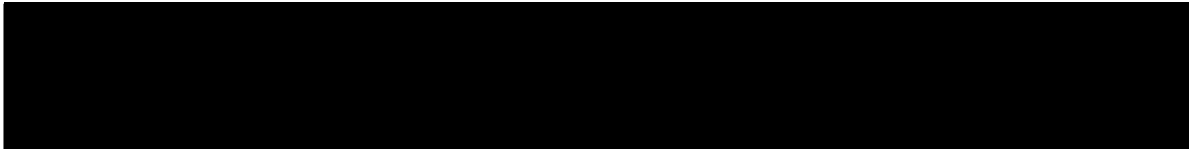


B. Child Protection Services

There has been no prior service provision in this case.

III. Assessment

The death review staffing for Caylee Marie Anthony was held on January 29th, 2009. In attendance were the CPI, the CPI Supervisor, the Program Administrator, and Death Review Coordinator.



A. Investigation of Prior Reports

There is documented Department involvement with the mother Casey Anthony in July 2008 when the child was reported missing. Please refer to Section II A of this report.

B. Child Protection Services

There were no prior services provided to this family.

C. Staff

There were no concerns raised regarding staff caseloads during the review of this case.

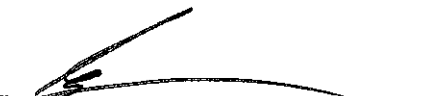
D. Systemic Issues

There were no concerns raised regarding systemic issues during the review of this case.

IV. Recommendations

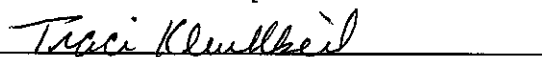
- Florida Administrative Code 65C-29.003 (3) (h) indicates that all adult household members are required to be interviewed; therefore, the maternal grandfather should have been interviewed for the missing person report.
- It is recommended to follow the best practice of interviewing subjects of an investigation separate of other individuals involved in the report.

- Florida Administrative Code 65C-29.003 (8) indicates that relevant collateral contacts need to be completed; therefore, the maternal uncle should have been interviewed for the missing person report and documenting them in the file.



Child Fatality Prevention Specialist
Kirby Morgan

8/10/11
Date



Family Safety Program Manager
Traci Klinkbeil

8/10/11
Date