

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Child Custody Deaths

Calendar Year 2013 (January 1 st – December 31 st , 2013)			
Custody Deaths [*]			
Total Number	13		
<p>In 2013, no children in DCS custody died as a result of abuse or neglect.</p> <p>There were a total of 13 custody deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten children were medically fragile at the time they came into state care. • One child died of underlying medical conditions. • One child absconded across state lines and subsequently died outside the state. • One child died as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident that occurred in 2012. 			
Classifications ^{**}			
	Number	Percent	
Substantiated	0	0%	
Unsubstantiated	11 ^{***}	100%	
Unable to Complete	0	0%	
Pending	0	0%	
		100%	
<p>[*] A custody death is defined as any child in the state of Tennessee who is in the custody of the Department at the time of his or her death.</p>			
<p>^{**} There are four types of classifications. Substantiated means that there is a preponderance of evidence that abuse or neglect occurred. Unsubstantiated means that there is not enough evidence to sustain the allegation. Pending classification refers to cases that have not yet closed. Finally, those classified as Unable to Complete still require additional information before the Department can classify a case.</p>			
<p>^{***} Following the arrival of Commissioner Henry in February 2013, a policy was adopted to investigate all custody deaths, regardless of whether there was an allegation of abuse or neglect. Two of the custody deaths in 2013 occurred before this policy was adopted. In accordance with policy in place at the time, these deaths were not investigated because there was no allegation of abuse or neglect.</p>			

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