

DETROIT: BOY WAS SECOND CHILD TO DIE - HALF-SISTER DIED OF SUFFOCATION; CASE TO BE RECHECKED

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A 2-year-old Detroit boy who died Friday after being taken to a hospital by his mother and her boyfriend in what is believed to be a case of fatal child abuse was the second of the mother's children to die in the last six months.

The couple - **Tasha Martin**, 18, and Joseph Taylor, 23 - were in police custody Monday and are expected to face first-degree murder and child abuse charges when they are arraigned today in Detroit's 36th District Court. Taylor also faces drug and weapons charges.

The boy, Isaiah **Martin**, suffered numerous injuries with obvious bruising, police said. The official cause of death was blunt force trauma, according to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Isaiah had been living with his maternal grandparents until about one or two weeks ago when he returned to **Martin** and Taylor, who live in the 4400 block of Tireman, on Detroit's west side. The boy had been living away from his mother since his 7-week-old half-sister died of suffocation last year, Detroit Police Cmdr. James Tolbert said during a news conference Monday.

That death was ruled an accident by the medical examiner's office, but investigators said they plan to revisit that case.

"Will we go back to that case? Absolutely," Tolbert said.

The infant, Danielle Taylor, died in September due to suffocation in unsafe sleeping conditions, police said. Afterward, Isaiah was turned over voluntarily to his grandparents.

Detroit police spokesman James Tate said the state Department of Human Services was the agency involved in Isaiah's placement with the grandparents. And that at that point, because the death was ruled an accident, the case was out of the hands of police.

A spokesman for the Department of Human Services said the department would open an investigation.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Tasha Martin , 18, and Joseph Taylor, 23, are expected to face first-degree murder and child abuse charges.

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