



### **DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:**

This matter came to the attention of CPSC through MECAP reporting. The assignment sheet indicates an on-site investigation with contact to officials and next-of-kin if the ME permits. The autopsy and police report were requested and both were received. Because the autopsy is completed, contact with the next-of-kin is authorized. The mother and father of the victim were sent a letter; however, they did not respond. Therefore, an on-site visit could not be conducted. Because the next-of-kin did not respond, all information in this report was from official sources.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:**

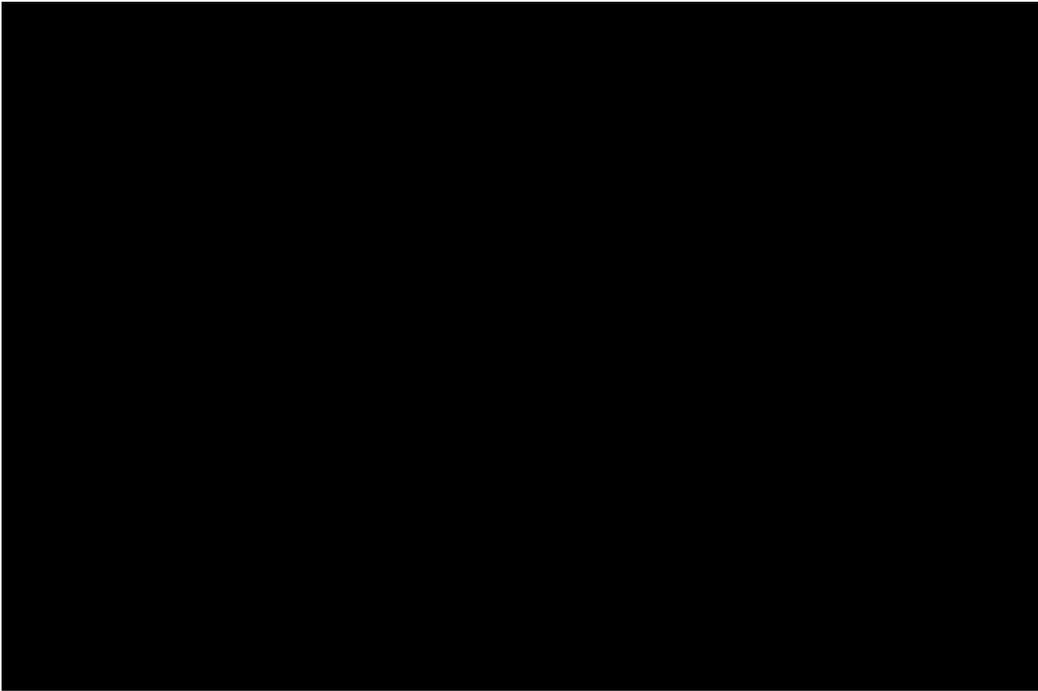
The location is a single story home in Tomball, Texas. The sheriff's office was dispatched to the home on March 8, 2011 at approximately 10:29 a.m. to respond to an unresponsive infant.

According to the sheriff's report, the three-month-old victim was put to bed in his crib at 11:00 p.m. on March 7, 2011. The mother checked on the infant at 1:30 a.m. and he was okay. The parents woke up around 10:20 a.m. and the mother went into the infant's room to check on him. The mother found the boy lying in the crib unresponsive and purple. According to their statements to the sheriff's office, the mother screamed and the father went into his son's room, picked the child up and went back into the master bedroom. When the sheriff's office arrived, the father was holding the boy pacing in the room and the mother was hysterical.

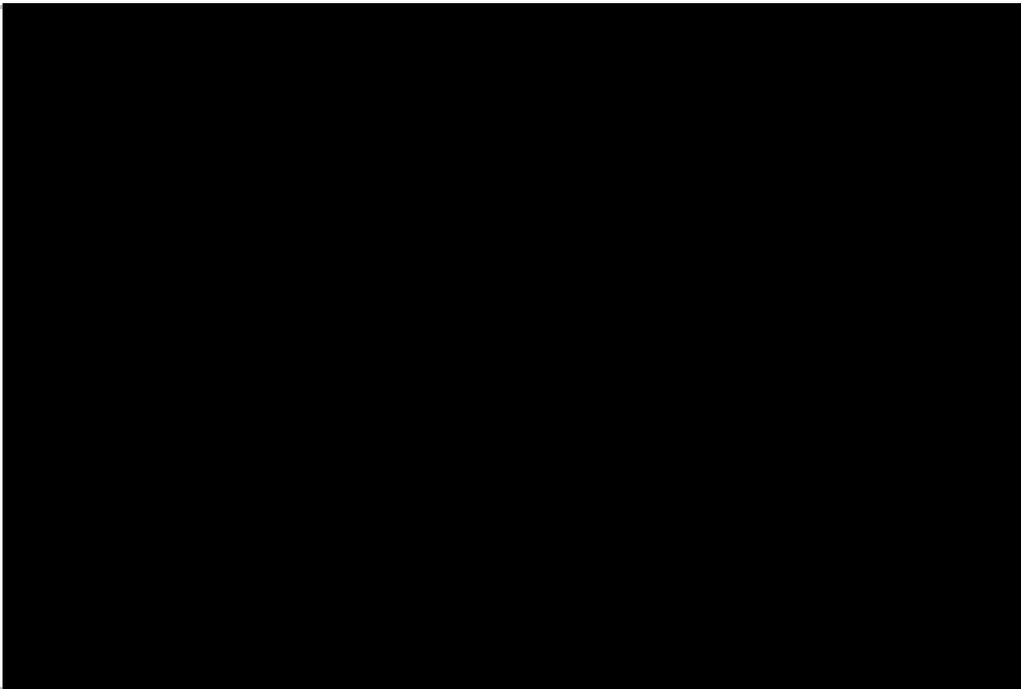
When the father was interviewed, he told the investigating officer that when he went into the room, his son was purple and that when he picked him up, the victim's body was stiff and lifeless. The sheriff's office was unable to interview the mother because of her mental state.

During the investigation, the sheriff's office noted that the crib was in a room dedicated for the victim and there was a baby monitor in the room. The report described the crib scenario as (See Photos 1 & 2):

**“A blanket was draped on the west side of the crib covering baby clothes on the crib's mat. Inside the crib was a stuffed animal in the southwest and southeast corners, with a standard size pillow lying in the center of the mattress (the pillow had a apparent blood stain on one of its corners). A cloth bumper pad lined the inside of the crib just above the mattress area. A baby mobile, with five small stuffed animals, was attached to the east rail of the crib.”**



**HCSO PHOTO #1: This police photo shows one end of the crib and the items that were in the crib at the time of the incident.**



**HCSO PHOTO #2: This police photo shows the other end of the crib and the items that were in it at the time of the incident.**

The medical examiner's investigative report indicates that when the mother put the child to bed, he was placed on the pillow in the crib on his right side against the crib bumper

(See Photos 1 & 2). The mother told the medical examiner's investigator that the victim had problems with congestion since birth and was prescribed antibiotics. He was put to bed nightly in the crib against the bumper pad on the pillow since birth. Neither the medical examiner's office nor the sheriff's office recreated the incident scenario with the infant and/or doll in the crib to show the baby's position.

A pillow was photographed by the investigating authority and the medical examiner's investigator noted that there was a blood stain approximately one inch (See Photo #3).



**HCSO PHOTO #3: This police photo shows the blood stain on the pillow that was referenced in the medical examiner's report.**

The autopsy reports indicates that the victim was a two-month-old black male that was found unresponsive. The victim's weight was 13 ½ pounds and he measured 25 inches in length. The autopsy states that there was patchy fixed lividity across the back and on the right side of his face and head. It further states that there was no evidence of injury.

The medical examiner ruled the cause of death as "Lymphohistiocytic myocarditis" and the manner of death as natural. The pathological findings for this victim were listed as:

1. **"Multifocal lymphohistiocytic myocarditis of probable etiology (see separate Microscopic Examination)**
2. **Pleural and epicardial petechiae**
3. **Toxicology:**
  - a. **Drug screen, including acetaminophen and salicylates: negative**
  - b. **Vitreous electrolytes: within normal limits**

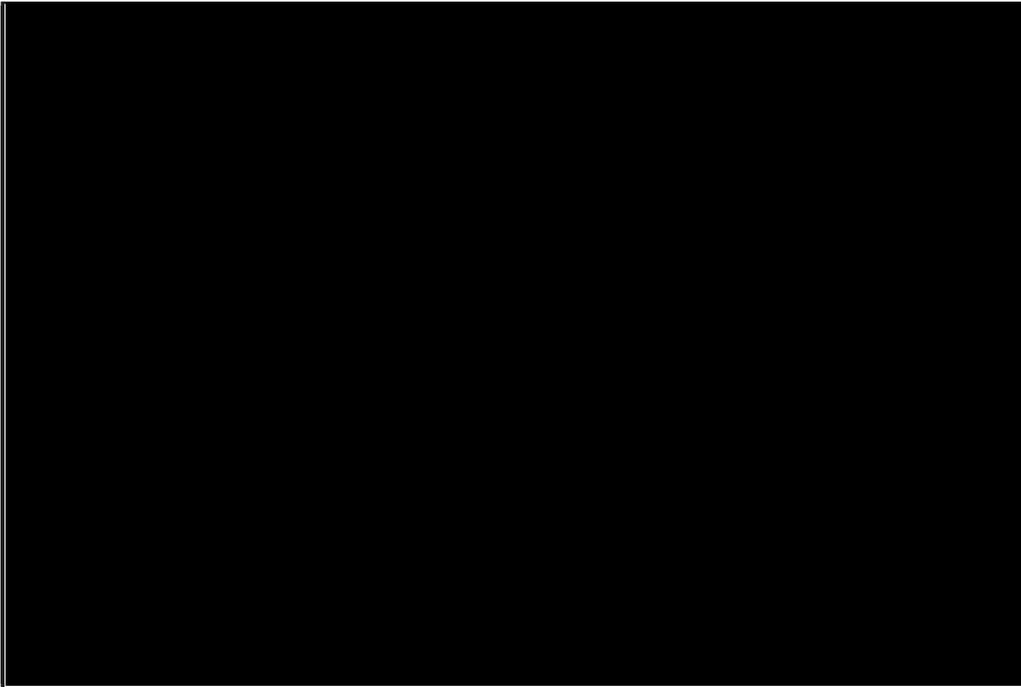
- c. **Carboxyhemoglobin: negative**
- d. **Glucose/Ketones: negative**
- 4. **Microbiology cultures:**
  - a. **Lung viral culture: no virus isolated**
  - b. **Lung bacterial culture: contaminant (1+ coagulase negative Staphylococcus)**
  - c. **Blood culture: no growth**
  - d. **Cerebrospinal fluid culture: no growth**
  - e. **Spleen culture: contaminant (backup media growth only, coagulase negative Staphylococcus)**
- 5. **Metabolic screen:**
  - a. **Acylcarnitine profile: negative**
  - b. **Congenital adrenal hyperplasia 17-OHP: negative**
  - c. **Congenital hypothyroidism – TSH: negative**
  - d. **Galactose (Gal and Gal-1-P): negative”**

Neither the sheriff’s office nor the medical examiner did a “recreation” of the incident; therefore, this investigator does not have any photos or information regarding the exact placement of the child other than what was described in the sheriff’s report.

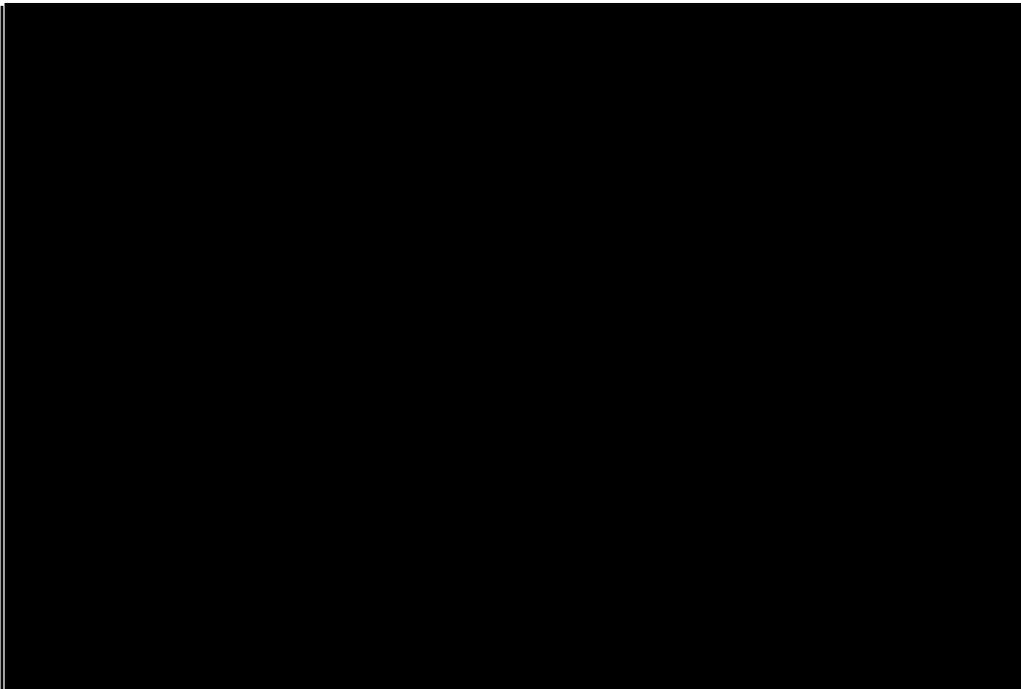
**PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:**

- 1. **Product Type:** Crib
  - Brand:** Unknown
  - Model Number:** Unknown
  - Manufacturer:** Unknown
  - Retailer:** Unknown
  
- 2. **Product Type:** Pillow
  - Brand:** Unknown
  - Model Number:** Unknown
  - Manufacturer:** Unknown
  - Retailer:** Unknown

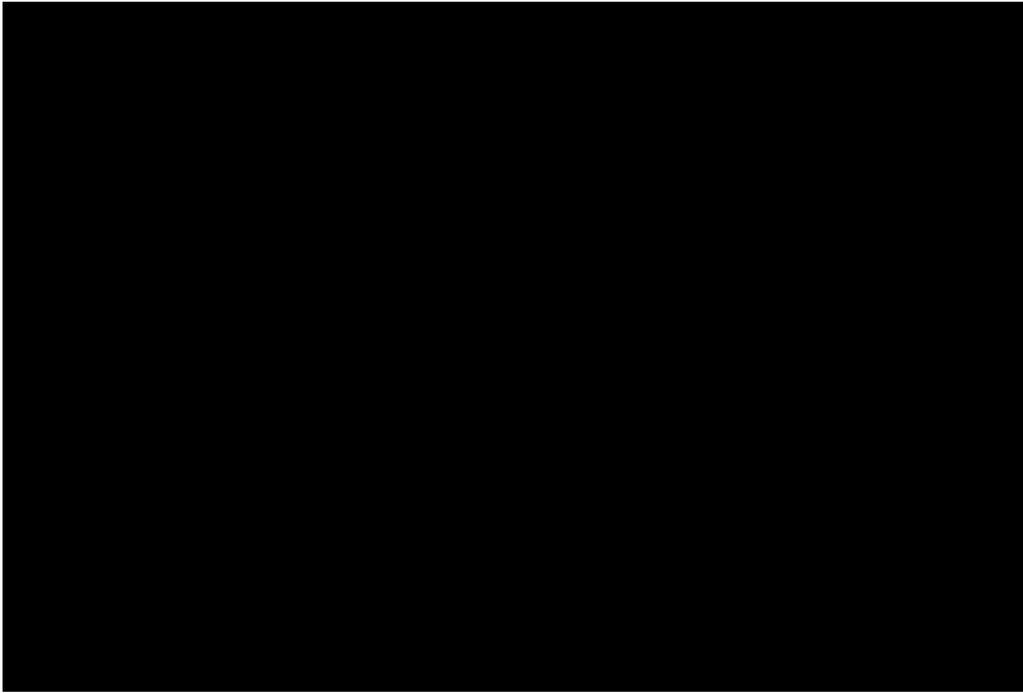
The sheriff’s office took pictures of the crib and its contents; however, they did not provide or list the model numbers for each item. Therefore, the exact product identification could not be ascertained as an on-site visit was not conducted (See Photos 4 through 7).



**HCSO PHOTO #4: This police photo shows the crib in the child's room. The manufacturer and model number are unknown.**



**HCSO PHOTO #5: This police photo shows a closer view of the side of the crib.**



**HCSO PHOTO #6:** This police photo shows the pillow that was in the crib at the time of the incident.

The sheriff's office took the following measurements from the incident scene:

Crib Measurements:

Front rail height to floor	37 ½"
Back rail height to floor	44 ½"
Area between rails	2"
Bottom of mattress to floor	16 ½"
Top of mattress to floor	22"
Mattress to top of front rail	13 ½"
Crib width	27 ½"
Crib length	52"
Mattress length	50"
Mattress width	26 ½"
Mattress thickness	5 ½"
Bumper height	10 ½"
Bumper thickness	2"
Pillow length	25 ½"
Pillow width	16 ½"
Pillow thickness	4"
Side storage area	H-37 ½" x L - 27 ½" x W - 16 ½"

**SAMPLE COLLECTION:**

None.

**EXHIBITS:**

1. Identity of Respondents
2. Harris County Sheriff's Report (CONFIDENTIAL)
3. Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences Autopsy & Investigator's Report (CONFIDENTIAL)
4. Photographs 1-7 (embedded within report)

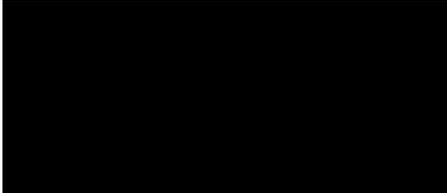


**IDENTITY OF RESPONDENTS:**

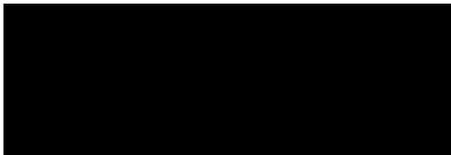
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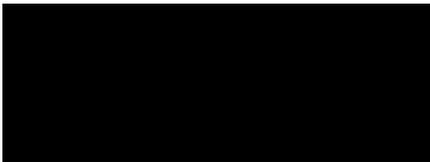
2.



3.



4.



Neither the mother or father responded to this investigator's request for an on-site investigation.