

PRE-ACCIDENT

The victim involved in this accident was a two month old female. The victim was a twin. The other twin is a boy. The twins were born on [REDACTED]

The victim and her twin were the children of a 23 year old single mother. They resided with the mother and a 3 year old sister in a mobile home. There were no other residents of the home.

According to the mother, the victim and the other twin were normally healthy infants. They were not being treated for any illnesses. The victim was not taking any type of medication at the time of the accident. The victim weighed approximately 9 lbs. and was approximately 18 1/2 inches long at the time of the accident.

The mother was not under the care of a physician during her pregnancy. She only saw a physician at a County Clinic one day prior to the birth of the victim. After their birth, she occasionally took the infants to the County Clinic for examinations by staff physicians.

The paramedic who was at the scene of the accident is a State Trooper. He spoke with physicians at the clinic after the accident. He discovered the victim was born 3 weeks premature. He was told by a physician that the victim was developing slowly and had slower mobility than normal.

The mother stated the victim and her twin shared a crib in the mother's bedroom. It was a second hand crib donated to the mother. The crib was in good condition and included a mattress. The two infants slept in the crib at opposite ends.

The mother said the mattress fit into the crib with very little space between its perimeter and the crib. She said there was sufficient space between the mattress and the crib to force a bump pad between the crib and the mattress. The mattress was a snug fit in the crib with the bump pad.

The mother said the mattress was covered with a thin quilted mattress pad and a sheet. There was some type of blanket in the crib at the time of the accident but she does not recall any details about the blanket. The blanket was not near the victim at the time of the accident.

The mother said there was a homemade firm cushion in the crib at the time of the accident. The cushion consisted of a one piece block of semi-rigid foam with a pillow case laid over the top. The cushion was approximately the size of a standard bed pillow. She said the cushion was used for the victim's twin.

The victim's twin slept better on the firm cushion and the cushion was used on his end of the crib. The victim never used the cushion and there was no cushion on the victim's end of the crib.

The paramedic (State Trooper) who was at the scene of the accident said there were two cushions in the crib and both twins slept on cushions. His physical description of the cushions agreed with the description of the cushion given by the mother. He said the cushions were approximately 4 inches thick. He said there was 5-6 inches of space between each cushion and between each cushion and the sides of the crib.

The mother said she fed both twins in the living room of the home before they went to bed on the night prior to the accident 6/3/92. She put the victim's twin to bed in the crib on the cushion at approximately 2130 hours. She put the victim to bed in the crib at approximately 2230 hours. The mother went to bed at approximately 2300 hours.

The mother said she did not sleep in the bedroom with the infants on the night of the accident. She slept in an adjacent bedroom with her 3 year old daughter.

The mother said she awoke at approximately 0200 hours on 6/3/92 to feed the twins. That was their normal feeding time and they were normally awake at that time. She went into the bedroom and both twins were sleeping. The victim was alive at that time. She did not want to awake the infants. She went into the living room and watched TV while she waited for the infants to awake. Neither infant awoke and she fell asleep in the living room. She did not awake until approximately 0800 hours.

The mother said when she checked the twins at 0200 hours, the victim was sleeping on her side on her end of the crib. The other twin was sleeping on his stomach on top of the foam cushion. She did not notice anything unusual at that time. The twins were both in their normal sleeping positions.

ACCIDENT

According to the paramedic (State Trooper) the victim rolled off her cushion during the night and fell in the gap between her cushion and the side rail of the crib. She landed face down with her face against the mattress. She was not able to move out of that position and suffocated.

POST ACCIDENT

The mother awoke at approximately 0800 hours on 6/3/92 and went into the bedroom to check the infants. She said she found the victim face down on the mattress on her side of the crib. She does not recall the exact position of the victim in the crib. The victim was not covered by a blanket. The victim appeared "stiff looking". She picked the victim up and realized the victim was dead. She placed the victim back in the crib.

The victim's twin was awake lying on his cushion on his end of the crib. The mother removed him from the crib and ran across the road to her mother's house for help. The grandmother then telephoned 911 for emergency assistance.

The paramedic (State Trooper) said the EMS is located less than 1 mile away from the victim's home. He and other paramedics arrived at the scene within a few minutes of receiving the request for help. He said he found the victim lying in the crib on top of a cushion upon his arrival. The victim's body was covered with a blanket by relatives prior to the arrival of the paramedics. He said the mother stated that she found the victim in the crib wedged between the foam cushion and the side rail of the crib. The victim's face was against the mattress of the crib.

The paramedic (State Trooper) said he examined the victim's body in the crib. The body was stiff indicating the victim died some time during the night. The physical condition of the victim's body was consistent with the mother's version of how she found the victim. There was livor in the victim's face indicating the victim was in a face down position after death. There were pressure points on the victim's forehead, chin, nose and knees. The victim's hands were positioned near her head.

The paramedic (State Trooper) said the victim died face down with her face against the sheeted mattress of the crib. He said he does not know if there was a mattress pad under the sheet. He said there was no evidence of foul play. The paramedic (State Trooper) said the victim was obviously dead. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene by the senior paramedic. The victim was transported from the scene to the medical examiner's office by the paramedics.

An autopsy was conducted by the medical examiner. The autopsy revealed the victim died from suffocation due to external facial compression.

Although there was a state trooper at the scene of the accident and he provided information about the accident, there was no police investigation or accident report. The state trooper was at the scene in his capacity as a volunteer paramedic. He did not observe any suspicious circumstances and no police follow-up was conducted.

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

Unknown.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

The crib involved in this accident and all items which were in the crib were destroyed by the family after the accident.

The victim's mother said the crib involved in this accident was a full size wooden crib. She received the crib second hand as a gift. She received the mattress with the crib. The crib was in good condition and was of solid construction. There were no loose or missing products. The mother does not know the brand name or any other specific identification information about the crib.

The paramedic (State Trooper) who was at the scene of the accident said the crib was a standard full size crib. He said it was obviously not a brand new crib but it was in very good condition. The crib was solidly constructed. There were no loose or apparent missing parts. The crib's slat spacing was narrow and in his opinion would not permit an infant's head to pass through. He does not recall the brand name of the crib.

The paramedic (State Trooper) described the foam cushion involved in this accident as a one piece block of semi-rigid foam. He described it as similar to the foam in a cushion from a couch. He said the block of foam was approximately the size of a bed pillow and was approximately 4 inches thick. The foam block was not upholstered. There was a pillow case lying on top of the foam block.

The mother said the cushion involved in the accident was homemade by a family member. She said it consisted of a solid block of foam which was cut to the approximate size of a standard full size bed pillow. The foam block was a piece of foam sold for general use and was not sold as a cushion or other specific product. The foam block was not upholstered. A pillow case was laid on top of the foam block whenever it was used as a cushion for the infants.

Neither the mother or the paramedic (State Trooper) could recall specifically any other items in the crib at the time of the accident. The state trooper said it did not appear that any other items in the crib were involved in the accident. He did not remove the sheet from the crib's mattress and he does not know if there was a mattress pad between the sheet and mattress.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 - A Copy of the Medical Examiner's Report.

- Kennedy
- A.J.

WV-92-314

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
701 Jefferson Road
South Charleston, West Virginia 25309
Phone: (304) 348-3920

REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATION - COUNTY

DECEDENT: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Age: 2mos Sex: F Race: W
First Middle Last

ADDRESS: [REDACTED] West Hamlin Lincoln WV
Number and Street City County State

NATURE OF DEATH (check only one):
 Sudden in apparent health Inmate of public institution Violent
 Unattended by physician or in police custody (Accident, Suicide, Homicide)
 Suspicious Therapeutic misadventure

	DATE	TIME	Place:
INJURY			
M. E. NOT FIED	6/3/92	9:20am	By Whom: Dr. [REDACTED] CME Agency: Lincoln CME
PRONOUNCED DEAD	6/3/92	9:11am	By Whom: Lincoln Emergency Service Place: Residence
BODY EXAMINED			Place:

POLICE INVESTIGATION BY: None Name Agency Phone

SYNOPSIS OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH:

MECAP

920209 HCC 18 143 Ex #1

The decedent was discovered laying face down, on the mattress of her crib, by her mother. The decedent was last known to be alive at 2:00am this morning, when she was checked on by her mother. EMS was summoned and pronounced the decedent at the scene. The decedent was reported to have been put to sleep on cushions that were placed in the crib. The decedent was placed on her back. It is felt that the decedent rolled off the cushion onto the crib mattress face down, between 2:00am and when she was discovered at 9:00am this morning. The decedent was a twin with a brother surviving. The brother was asleep in the same crib. The decedent was 3 weeks premature, but with no other complications medical history. The decedent's mother received no prenatal care, only seeing a physician 1 day prior to delivery. The decedent was last feed late pm on 6/2. The residence was found to be in order. No other suspicions are noted at this time. The body will be released to [REDACTED] Funeral Home, in Hamlin.

6/3/92: Paramedic responded to 911 call from scene. Mother distraught. Babe's head in bed on room cushion, but had no (had face down) of animal with little cushion & head wedged between cushion, crib bumper mattress. Humiliated blanket. Eyes noted told Mr. Kidd who is also a state trooper (neighbor) to advise law of COD from ant. of y + to remove cushions so same problem would not occur & brother IUS

(Use back of sheet if more space desired)

Cause of Death: Pending	Manner of Death: (check one only)	Autopsy: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined <input type="checkbox"/>	Place: OCME By: I. M. Sopher M.D.

I hereby declare that after receiving notice of the death described herein, I took charge of the body and made inquiries regarding the cause and manner of death in accordance with West Virginia Code, 61-12-8; and that the information contained herein regarding such death is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 6/3/92 County of Appointment: Lincoln (No Pay) Signed: *[Signature]* Medical Examiner: Chief Investigator

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ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REQUEST FORM

Document Number [REDACTED]

Date of Incident 920603 Category I.D. TYNNO71992

Follow-Up Requested Hazard Analysis Section 15

Type Follow-Up Requested Telephone Call On-Site

Headquarters Contact Debbie Tinsworth, 492-6470

Assignment Message

Conduct an investigation of the attached incident involving a nursery product. Describe accident scenario and provide product identification (manufacturer, date and place of purchase, etc.). Determine whether incident resulted from product failure or faulty design (e.g., hardware failure, entrapment resulting from improper spacing, inadequate or missing restraints, etc.).

If entrapment was involved, provide measurements of the area of entrapment.

If suffocation was involved, describe:

- characteristics of any of the products involved;
- position of head and body of victim when found;
- location of victim on sleeping site;
- the type, amount, and location of clothing, bedding, toys, and other items covering or surrounding the infant;
- the compressibility of the surface upon which the infant was lying;
- whether any material near the infant's face was wet or damp;
- the temperature and ventilation of room where incident occurred;
- description of the type, amount, and location of clothing, bedding, toys or other materials covering or surrounding the infant;
- any relevant medical history of the infant, including whether the victim had suffered a recent respiratory illness, birth weight, weight at time of death, and possible predisposition for SIDS, etc.

Provide official reports.

Person(s) to Contact Irvin M Sapher, Chief Medical Exam

Guideline

Requested By CAROL CAVE

Task Number 920909HCC 1843

12165 BCF
 Rleda
 WSA 9/16/92