



Allen County Coroner

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Allen County Coroner

PRESS RELEASE
Friday, September 25, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media Outlets
From: Christopher Meihls
Deputy Coroner
Allen County Coroner's Office

The Allen County Coroner's Office was contacted reference a fire investigation located in the 3800 block of Chancery Place in Fort Wayne on September 24, 2020.

The Fort Wayne Fire Department made entry into the home and removed the decedent, along with her mother and two other siblings. The decedent was transported to a local hospital. Shortly after arrival to the hospital, death was pronounced. The decedent has been identified and notification has been made to the next of kin of Hazel DeFord, female, white, age 2, from Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Autopsy has been completed; the cause of death and manner of death is pending.

The incident remains under investigation by the Fort Wayne Fire Department Investigation Division, the Allen County Prosecutor's Office and the Allen County Coroner's Office.

Christopher Meihls
Deputy Coroner
Allen County Coroner's Office

Michael Burris*
Chief Investigator

Becky Maze*
Senior
Investigator

Chris Meihls*
Investigator

Michele Iden
Deputy

Jeff McCracken*
Deputy

Ken Hendricks*
Deputy

*Indiana Certified Medicolegal Death Investigator