



**BURKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Sheriff Steve Whisenant**  
**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Update 3/20/2017:**

The Burke County Sheriff's Office is continuing the investigation. Some additional interviews need to be conducted and we are awaiting toxicology reports. We hope to have those reports within the next two weeks. Subsequent to receiving those reports, we will present our findings to the District Attorney's Office so the District Attorney can determine if any charges should be issued. No determination of cause of death has been provided as of this date.

**Update 3/16/2017:**

An autopsy was performed on the three year old child today. There were no signs of trauma. Toxicology and other tests will not be available for approximately two weeks. The investigation is continuing.

**Update 3/15/2017:**

The Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division is continuing the investigation with an autopsy scheduled on the child tomorrow, Thursday, March 16, 2017. Additional information will be provided on Thursday.

**Details:**

The Burke County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to 1259 Hopewell Road, Morganton at 7:45 a.m. on 3-15-2017, by Burke County 911. Burke County 911 received a call from a motorist advising they thought there may be a child laying on the front porch of the Hopewell residence. Deputies arrived at 7:53 a.m. to discover a three year old child that was deceased. Burke County Criminal Investigation Division is currently on the scene conducting an investigation. Additional information will be released as soon as possible.

March 16, 2017