



Office of Commissioner of Insurance

NEWS RELEASE

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Hudgens: Cause of Fatal Camden County House Fire Ruled Accidental

Atlanta – A Fire Investigator with Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens' office has ruled a September 14 house fire in Camden County that killed a woman and a child accidental.

The fire, which occurred around 6 a.m. at 95 Ben Butler Road in Woodbine Ga., claimed the life of Myra Butler, 52, and Anthony Green, 6. The owner of the home, Marcia Butler, 48, a sister to Myra and grandmother to Anthony escape the blaze with minor injuries. She was transported to a local hospital and later released.

“Due to the extensive damage to the home, my investigator was unable to determine exactly what started the fire, but ruled out extreme weather or an electrical malfunction as the cause,” Hudgens said. “He believes an unattended candle in the living room area may have started this deadly blaze.”

Neighbors told investigators that the family had begun burning candles for lights on Sunday, September 10, due to an electrical power outage caused by Hurricane Irma. Commissioner Hudgens urges Georgians to burn candles within a one-foot circle of combustibles and always to extinguish them when you leave a room.

The Camden County Fire Department, the Camden Sheriff's Office and the Camden County Coroner's Office assisted with the investigation.

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