

Mason Kearns was my nephew, my sister's second son, and a very close cousin to my two boys. He was also a grandson, a great grandson, a friend and just such a good kid. He was loved by all who met him. He was innocently playing in the rain with his brother when he was horrifically swept into a storm drain pipe that nobody ever knew was there. It was completely covered in dirt and gravel and grass that it looked like it was just a part of normal ground surrounding them. Not even a marking for it. The power of water is so strong and not something a lot of people realize. When Mason stepped back to get that ball, between the water softening the ground and the weight of his foot, it loosened all that debris and swept Mason so hard into that storm drain that he died of asphyxiation. He didn't even have time to drown. His older brother and mother tried tirelessly to get him out. Clay, his older brother, could feel Mason let go of his hand. But there was no saving him. The water had taken him into that storm drain so hard and fast that it took first responders 45 minutes to get him out while his mother and brother watched. They will never forget that. Ever. Our community felt a huge loss with his passing. His death could have been prevented just like so many others. That is why I am in favor of Mason's Law. These types of deaths happen all over the country and not just to children but our first responders as well. Nobody should ever have to deal with a loss like this. YOU should not have to deal with a loss like this. Maryland will be the first with a law like this if it gets passed and it should. I am then hoping other states will also follow suit quickly before another tragic death happens. Thank you for taking your time to read this.