

Information for Release		2/10/2014
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Date of the notification to CPS: 6/27/2013

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 6/27/2013

Child's name: Aaron Brooks

Age at time of incident: 6 Months

Perpetrator(s): Autumn Stultz and Joshua Brooks

Age: Ages 23 and 22

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and alleged perpetrator(s) were living in Phoenix, Arizona.

A. Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On or around June 27, 2013, Autumn Stultz and Joshua Brooks neglected their son, Aaron Brooks when they failed to provide him with adequate supervision as he was left unattended and found dead due to positional asphyxiation while in their care. The parents were aware that Aaron was having breathing issues, but failed to ensure his safety. Aaron was found face down wrapped in a blanket on the floor.

B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian* :

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) has received the following prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Aaron Brooks by Autumn Stultz and Joshua Brooks:

On January 10, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect of Aaron Brooks and his siblings by their parents Autumn Stultz and Joshua Brooks. The report stated that Cottonwood police were called to the home and observed it to have holes in the walls and broken items throughout due to domestic violence between the parents. There was also marijuana and drug paraphernalia left throughout the home within the children's reach. Joshua Brooks was arrested for child endangerment and had previously been arrested on January 8, 2013 for aggravated DUI when he was driving with Aaron and his siblings in the car. An investigation was completed and the children were determined to be safe. The parents were referred for counseling from community services offered through Verde Valley Guidance Clinic and daycare was provided for the children.

On March 20, 2013, a report was received alleging physical abuse of Aaron Brooks by his parents Autumn Stultz and Joshua Brooks. The report stated that Aaron was observed on March 19, 2013 to have a red burn on his right thigh that was scabbed over. It looked like severe diaper rash, but did not appear to be infected. Autumn Brooks was asked about the burn and stated it was from the car seat being too hot. Aaron was then observed the following day with both thighs being bright red and with the skin appearing to be raw. This time Aaron's mother stated it was from diaper rash, but no rash was observed around Aaron's genital area. During the investigation, contact was made with the mother and the daycare and both stated Aaron was having an allergic reaction to his diapers which stopped after the mother switched to another kind. Attempts were made to see the family, but it was later learned that they had

relocated to Phoenix.

1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI), assisted by Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS), is conducting a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

Following an assessment of safety, the other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care.

3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

Case management, parent aide, visitation, substance abuse and psychological services were offered to the family.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.