

Information for Release

10/11/2013

Date of the notification to CPS: 6/12/2012

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 6/12/2012

Child's name: Austin Clark

Age at time of incident: 15 Years

Perpetrator(s): Patti Clark

Age: 50 years old

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

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

On or about June 11, 2012, Patti Clark neglected Austin Clark, age 15, when she failed to provide adequate supervision and a safe and hazard free environment. She placed the child at unreasonable risk of overdose and death as she was aware of the child's history of drug overdose and left prescription medications (tramadol and oxymorphone) in easy access to the child (the medications were found throughout the residence), resulting in his death. Austin Clark died on June 12, 2012 of lethal effects of tramadol and oxymorphone.

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 one prior report alleging abuse or neglect of Austin Clark by Patti Clark.

On April 27, 2012 a report was made to CPS alleging that Austin had a history of substance abuse and that the mother, Patti Clark had left her prescribed medications within Austin's access. Subsequently, there was concern that Austin might be taking medication that is not prescribed to him. Mother was allegedly prescribed Ativan, Oxycodone and Oxycontin. The report was unsubstantiated as there was not enough information to substantiate a neglect finding. The family had been referred to Family Preservation Services and was in the process of engaging in these services.

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

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) conducted a joint investigation with the Scottsdale Police Department.

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

There were no other children in the home.

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

No services were provided.

*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.