



Preliminary Report	Fatality	3/3/17
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 4/1/15 are displayed below in red.

1. **Victim:** Dante Houck – 10-month-old male

2. **Date of notification to DCS:** 3/22/13

3. **Date of fatality:** 10/29/12

4. **Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**

Heather Bissland – 3/17/15

Devin Houck – 2/22/17

5. **County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Mesa, AZ

6. **Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Heather Bissland – age 18 – Mesa, AZ

Devin Houck – age 18 – Mesa, AZ

7. **Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:**

On March 22, 2013, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 10-month-old Dante Houck. The report stated Dante had died on October 29, 2012. An investigation was initiated and found that the **parents**, Heather Bissland **and Devin Houck**, had left Dante unattended in an empty bathtub for over 17 hours without checking on him. The Medical Examiner ruled the manner and cause of death as "Undetermined," but stated severe undernourishment and probable dehydration were significant contributory factors. The Arizona Child Fatality Review Team, which includes at least one medical doctor, determined that Dante's death was due to neglect. In addition, the DCS investigation determined that Dante's death was a result of the **parents'** neglect based on **their** failure to provide him with adequate nutrition, fluids and supervision.

8. **Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s) \*\*:**

DCS has received no prior reports involving **Devin Houck**, Dante Houck or Heather Bissland.

9. **Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:**

A joint investigation was conducted with the Mesa Police Department.

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

There were no other children in the home.

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

No services were provided.



## *Arizona Department of Child Safety*

**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

\*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

\*\* Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).  
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.