



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>8/4/16</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Adalynn Russell – 22-month-old – female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/4/16
- 3. Date of fatality:** 4/4/16
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 7/26/16
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Natalie Russell – age 30 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On April 4, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Adalynn being found deceased in her home. It was reported that the mother, Natalie Russell, left her methadone medication within reach of Adalynn and that Adalynn ingested some of the methadone. Upon examination, the child was found to have toxic levels of methadone and methamphetamines in her system. Adalynn’s death has been ruled a homicide. Natalie Russell was arrested and charged with first degree murder.

**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 the following prior reports involving Natalie Russell and/or Adalynn Russell:

On March 2, 2007, a report was received alleging neglect to one of Adalynn’s older siblings by their mother, Natalie Russell. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family participated in in-home services and the case was closed.

On July 7, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to one of Adalynn’s older siblings by their mother, Natalie Russell. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The Department offered services to the family and the case was closed.

On December 3, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Adalynn and one of her older siblings by their mother, Natalie Russell and each of their fathers. The children were removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations were substantiated. The Department was providing services to the family when the following three subsequent reports were received.

On January 7, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Adalynn and a sibling by their mother, Natalie Russell, Adalynn’s father and the kinship placement provider. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the Department continued providing services to the family.

On August 8, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the mother, Natalie Russell and the father. The allegations were substantiated as to the father and unsubstantiated as to mother, Natalie Russell. The Department continued providing services to the family.

On February 4, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to Adalynn by her mother, Natalie Russell. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.



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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were removed from the home and placed in foster care.

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

The Department is providing services to the family.

\*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.