



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>6/4/2020</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Anthony Buber – 4-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 8/14/18
- 3. Date of fatality:** 8/14/18
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 11/4/19
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pinal County – Apache Junction, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Katherine Buber – age 33 – Apache Junction, AZ  
David Withrow – age 31 – Apache Junction, AZ

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

On August 14, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Anthony Buber who had been found unresponsive in the home where he lived with his mother, Katherine Buber, and stepfather, David Withrow. He was transported to the hospital and was observed to have extensive bruising on multiple planes of his body. He was pronounced deceased shortly after arrival and an autopsy was performed by the Pinal County Medical Examiner on August 14, 2018. The autopsy report was finalized on December 5, 2018, with the cause of death listed as complications of blunt force abdominal trauma. The Pinal County Medical Examiner’s report noted that Anthony had allegedly fallen from the top of a bunk bed approximately one week prior to the death, but also stated inflicted injuries could not be excluded. The Pinal County Medical Examiner ruled the manner of death as undetermined. On November 4, 2019, the Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse and neglect pertaining to the mother and stepfather due to the child sustaining unexplained injuries while in their care and failure to provide Anthony with medical care after the alleged fall from the bunkbed.

**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 David Withrow as an alleged perpetrator.

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Katherine Buber and/or Anthony Buber:

On May 4, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Anthony Buber’s sibling by their mother, Katherine Buber. The allegation was substantiated and the family successfully completed in-home services with the Department.

On February 10, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Anthony Buber and his siblings by their mother, Katherine Buber, and their father. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family declined services offered by the Department.

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



A joint investigation was conducted with the Apache Junction 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 by the Department.

\*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.