



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>6/19/19</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Johnathon Horton Jr. 20-month-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 1/6/18
- 3. Date of fatality:** 1/6/18
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 2/12/19
- 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:**

Christina Burdette – age 36 – Phoenix, AZ  
Johnathon Horton – age 37 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On January 6, 2018 the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 20-month-old Johnathon Horton Jr. who had been transported to a hospital and pronounced deceased. The Maricopa County Office of the Medical Examiner later determined the cause of death to be acute methadone toxicity from the ingestion of methadone. On February 12, 2019, the Maricopa County Juvenile Court found through a dependency proceeding that the child’s parents, Christina Burdette and Johnathon Horton, failed to provide him with appropriate supervision which created an unsafe home and unreasonable risk of harm wherein he was found deceased in the home.

**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 Johnathon Horton Jr. as a victim.

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Christina Burdette, Johnathon Horton and/or Johnathon Horton Jr.:

On August 23, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Christina Burdette. The Department was investigating and working with the family when a subsequent report was received. The allegation was later unsubstantiated.

On April 16, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Christina Burdette. An investigation was initiated and the case was open when a subsequent report was received. The allegation was later unsubstantiated.

On February 11, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Christina Burdette and Johnathon Horton. An investigation was initiated and the case was open when a subsequent report was received. The allegations were later unsubstantiated.

On May 10, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Johnathon Horton. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed after the family completed services provided by the Department.



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

A joint investigation was 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 other children in the home were 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.