



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>1/9/2020</b>
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**1. Victim:** Lyam McDonald 2 1/2 month old male

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 11/4/19

**3. Date of fatality:** 11/8/19

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

Stefanie Brideschge – 11/25/19

Travis McDonald – 1/6/20

**5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pinal County – Coolidge, AZ

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

Stefanie Brideschge – age 27 – Coolidge, AZ

Travis McDonald – age 27 – Coolidge, AZ

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

On November 4, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding twins Brayden and Lyam McDonald who had been transported to the hospital with multiple life threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma. The injuries ultimately resulted in the deaths of Brayden and Lyam McDonald on November 8, 2019. The children had been in the care of their father, Travis McDonald, when they were injured and the Department substantiated the allegations of death child abuse against him. On November 20, 2019 the Department of Child Safety filed a dependency petition with Pinal Superior Court regarding the other children in the home. On November 25, 2019 the court found that Stefanie Brideschge failed to protect the twins from abuse.

**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 received no prior reports involving Brayden McDonald, Stefanie Brideschge nor Travis McDonald as alleged perpetrators.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Coolidge 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 an in-home dependency with the mother, Stefanie Brideschge under a safety plan with relatives.

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



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

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Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

The Department is providing services to the family including services to support the other children involved.

\*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.