



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>3/11/2020</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Michelle Thresher – 4-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 9/18/19
- 3. Date of fatality:** 9/18/19
- 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:** Maricopa County – Glendale, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Allie Harris – age 28 – Glendale, AZ

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

On September 18, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Michelle Thresher who became unresponsive at home. Michelle was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The Department took custody of the child's siblings and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court on September 23, 2019. On November 4, 2019, it was determined through that proceeding that the child's mother, Allie Harris, neglected her by failing to provide appropriate supervision. The Maricopa County Medical Examiner's report completed on November 25, 2019, stated the death was caused by fentanyl toxicity.

**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 the following prior reports involving Allie Harris and/or Michelle Thresher:

On August 22, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Michelle's sibling by their mother, Allie Harris. The mother participated in services provided by the Department and was also given information on resources in the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On May 31, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Michelle's sibling by their mother, Allie Harris. An investigation was initiated and in progress when another report was received three days later. The allegation was later unsubstantiated.

On June 3, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Michelle's sibling by their mother, Allie Harris. The mother participated in services provided by the Department and was also given information on resources in the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 9, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to Michelle Thresher and a sibling by their mother, Allie Harris. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family completed in-home services provided by the Department.



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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Glendale Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the victim's siblings were removed and placed in foster care. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and one of the siblings was later assessed as safe in the care of their other parent.

**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.