



Preliminary Report	Fatality	12/12/17
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- 1. Victim:** Sanaa Cunningham – 7-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 2/12/17
- 3. Date of fatality:** 2/12/17
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 12/1/17
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Goodyear, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Germaine Cunningham – age 37 – Goodyear, AZ
Lisa Cunningham – age 42 – Goodyear, AZ

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

On February 12, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 7-year-old Sanaa Cunningham was transported to a hospital where she was pronounced deceased. Sanaa was observed to have multiple injuries and the report indicated a physician stated the death was suspicious. An autopsy completed by the Maricopa Office of the Medical Examiner on October 12, 2017 found the cause of death to be complications of sepsis in the setting of acute bronchitis with bronchiolitis and early bronchopneumonia, right foot abscess, multiple skin ulcerations, and unspecified schizophrenia spectrum disorder. The manner of death was ruled as undetermined. It was also found to be unknown as to how the injury occurred. On December 1, 2017, a Maricopa County Grand Jury indicted the child's father, Germaine Cunningham, and stepmother, Lisa Cunningham, on charges of murder and child 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 has received the following prior reports involving Sanaa and/or Germaine and Lisa Cunningham:

On March 4, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to Sanaa by Germaine and Lisa Cunningham. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The family was provided with information on services available in the community.

On October 27, 2016, a report was received alleging sexual abuse to Sanaa by an unknown perpetrator. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case remained open pending the completion of all documentation when another report was received. The family was offered but declined services through the Department.

On December 21, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Sanaa by Germaine Cunningham and neglect to Sanaa by Lisa Cunningham. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the fatality report was received. The allegations have been proposed for substantiation.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Goodyear 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 initially assessed as safe with a safety plan in place. The Department continued to monitor and assess their safety and they were later removed and placed in foster care. Another child in the home was assessed as safe in the care of the child's 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.