

Preliminary Report	Fatality	03/19/2025
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- 1. Victim:** August Walton– 1-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 06/15/2023
- 3. Date of fatality:** 06/15/2023
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 03/12/2025
- 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:**

Lyandra Walton– age 37 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On June 15, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 1-year-old August Walton. August was found unresponsive at home by his mother, Lyandra Walton, and was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The autopsy determined that August died of fentanyl toxicity. On January 31, 2025, Lyandra Walton pled guilty to manslaughter and child abuse charges in a Maricopa County Superior Court related to August’s death.

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 report involving Lyandra Walton and August Walton:

On March 19, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to August by his mother, Lyandra Walton. The allegations were unsubstantiated, as the child was determined to be residing in another state. An assessment of child safety was completed by that state’s child protection agency.

DCS received the following reports involving Lyandra Walton:

On February 25, 2007, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Lyandra Walton. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On January 13, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Lyandra Walton. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The child remained in the hospital and an in-home safety plan for a sibling was developed. The in-home plan transitioned to an out-of-home dependency in February 2009 for the sibling. In March 2009, a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court for the newborn upon discharge

from the hospital. The Department provided services to the family. Lyandra's parental rights to both children were terminated in August 2009.

On October 11, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Lyandra Walton. The child was removed and a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court. The Department provided reunification services to the family. Lyandra's parental rights to the child were terminated in 2017 and the allegations of neglect to the child by Lyandra were substantiated.

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:

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:

There were no services 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.