



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Cabinet Executive Officer/Executive Deputy Director  
Katie Hobbs, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>03/13/2024</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Baynen Fitz – 12-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 12/18/23
- 3. Date of fatality:** 12/18/23
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 12/12/24
- 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:**

Bryan Fitz– age 53 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On December 18, 2023, the Department received a report regarding the fatality of 12-year-old Baynen Fitz, who was discovered deceased at his home due to gunshot wounds to the head. Upon investigation, the Department determined his father, Bryan Fitz, inflicted the injuries to Baynen and caused his death. Mr. Fitz also shot and killed the child's mother at her place of employment before he was found deceased at home due to self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

**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 Bryan Fitz:

On March 11, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Bryan Fitz and the child's mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on May 22, 2018.

**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:**

*Safety · Accountability · Change · Family · Engagement · Compassion · Teaming · Advocacy · Equity*

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.