

Preliminary Report	Fatality	05/09/2024
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- 1. Victim:** Jace Welch – 3-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 06/27/22
- 3. Date of fatality:** 06/26/22
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 04/05/24
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Yavapai County – Ash Fork, AZ

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

Shanta Bach – age 27 – Lockhart, Texas

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

On June 27, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a motor vehicle crash which resulted in the fatality of 3-year-old Jace Welch and the near fatality of a sibling. It was reported the children in the vehicle were not restrained. On April, 5, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the mother, Shanta Bach, to the fatality victim, Jace Welch, and his siblings.

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 Shanta Bach:

On December 14, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Shanta Bach. The allegation was unsubstantiated as to Shanta Bach. The family was provided with daycare services and the case was closed March 10, 2015.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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 assessed as safe.

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.