



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

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

Preliminary Report	Fatality	02/22/2024
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- 1. Victim:** Kingston Hecht – 6-month-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 12/27/18
- 3. Date of fatality:** 01/02/19
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 8/29/2021
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Topawa, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Ralph Lewis – age 37 – Topawa, AZ

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

On December 27, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 6-month-old Kingston Hecht, who was found unresponsive at home and was transported to the hospital. Upon examination, Kingston was found to have significant head injuries. On January 2, 2019, Kingston Hecht passed away as result of his injuries. Kingston was in DCS custody at the time of this incident under the care of a relative caregiver, Ralph Lewis. On September 29, 2021, Ralph Lewis was indicted by a grand jury in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona for involuntary manslaughter 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):**

There was no prior DCS involving Ralph Lewis.

DCS received the following prior report involving Kingston Hecht:

On July 30, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to Kingston by his parents. Following an assessment of child safety, Kingston was placed with relatives. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Juvenile Court and the allegations were substantiated. The Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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

The other children in the caregiver's home had their safety assessed by the Tohono O'odham Child Welfare Division.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

The Department provided services to the child's parents and sibling.

*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.