

Preliminary Report	Fatality	11/04/2024
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1. Victim: Roman Burke – 5-year-old Male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 4/15/2023

3. Date of fatality: 4/15/2023

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:
10/30/2024

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Mohave County – Mohave Valley, AZ

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

Michael Burke – age 24 – Mohave Valley, AZ

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

On April 15, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 5-year-old Roman Burke, who had been involved in a motor vehicle crash. The child was unrestrained in a vehicle when it was rear-ended by a SUV. The child was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse and neglect by the father, Michael Burke, who drove intoxicated with the child unrestrained in an all-terrain vehicle.

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 Roman Burke:

On April 14, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to Roman by his mother. The investigation assessed Roman as safe with his parents with a safety plan. The family accepted in-home services. The family successfully completed services and the case was closed on August 13, 2018. The allegation of neglect by the mother was substantiated.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Fort Mojave Tribal Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the sibling was assessed as safe with their parents under an in-home safety plan.

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

The Department provided 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.