

Preliminary Report	Fatality	06/04/2025
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1. Victim: Travis Carter Jr. – 6-month-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 8/8/2024

3. Date of fatality: 7/30/2024

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 5/28/2025

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Yavapai County – Mayer, AZ

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

Aleesia Phillips – age 30 – Goodyear, AZ

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

On August 8, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 6-month-old Travis Carter Jr., who died from drug exposure to fentanyl. The child was found unresponsive in a motor vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Later, the medical examiner determined that the cause of death was exposure to drugs due to fentanyl toxicity. On April 30, 2025, Aleesia Phillips pleaded guilty to misconduct involving weapons and child abuse charges related to Travis' death in Yavapai County Superior Court. Aleesia Phillips was sentenced to a one-year prison sentence followed by a lifetime of supervised probation.

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 reports involving Aleesia Phillips and Travis Carter Jr.:

On June 21, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Aleesia Phillips. The Department made multiple efforts to locate the family at their last known address and phone numbers without success. The Department was unable to locate the family and the case was closed on April 30, 2015.

On December 4, 2022, a report was received alleging physical abuse to children by Aleesia Phillips. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Aleesia Phillips. The case was being transferred to voluntary in-home services when a second report came in on January 31, 2023.

On January 31, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to children by Aleesia Phillips. The allegations of physical abuse were unsubstantiated and the allegations of neglect were substantiated as to Aleesia Phillips. The family was provided with voluntary in-home services. The in-home case was closed on May 31, 2023.

On February 2, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect to Travis Carter Jr. by Aleesia Phillips. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated as to Aleesia Phillips. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The case was still open when a second report came in on March 6, 2024.

On March 6, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Travis Carter Jr. and siblings by Aleesia Phillips and another adult. The allegations of neglect and physical abuse were unsubstantiated to Aleesia Phillips and another adult. The Department offered the family an Arizona Families First referral, which they declined. The case was closed on March 28, 2024.

On July 1, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect to Travis Carter Jr. and siblings by Aleesia Phillips and another adult. The investigation case was still open when a second report was received on August 5, 2024.

On August 5, 2024, a report was received alleged neglect to children by Aleesia Phillips and another adult. The investigation was open when the fatality report was received. Following the report of the fatality, a dependency petition was filed with the Yavapai County Superior Court and the allegations of neglect are proposed to substantiate as to Aleesia Phillips and another adult. The investigation case was closed on September 6, 2024.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, a sibling was removed from the home and placed with a fictive kin caregiver. The other sibling in the home was assessed as safe with their other parent.

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

The Department is providing 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.