

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>01/23/2024</b>
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**Amendments to the information originally posted on 04/27/23 are displayed below in red.**

**1. Victim:** Braylen Burgess – 4-month-old male

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 10/15/21

**3. Date of fatality:** 10/15/21

**4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**

Lashawn Groves- 4/3/23

**Rackayla Brown -1/12/24**

**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:**

Lashawn Groves – age 23 – Phoenix, AZ

**Rackayla Brown – age 22- Phoenix, AZ**

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

On October 15, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-month-old male that was found unresponsive in his bassinet after being put to sleep between two pillows. The child was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. It was determined the child died of positional asphyxia due to the unsafe sleep environment. On April 3, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by Lashawn Groves. **On January 12, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by Rackayla Brown.**

**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 were no prior DCS reports involving Braylen, **Ms. Brown** or Mr. Groves.

**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:**

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as being 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.