



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	10/25/16
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 9-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 10/3/16
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 10/4/16
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 10/18/16
- 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:**

Melissa Loyd – age 37 – Phoenix, AZ
Michael Dugger – age 43 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On October 3, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging neglect, physical, and emotional abuse to the near fatality victim. The child was located and observed to have extensive bruising, lacerations, and abrasions. She was transported to the hospital where it was determined by a physician that her injuries placed her in serious or critical condition. On October 18, 2016, the child's parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger, were arrested for 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):**

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Melissa Loyd, Michael Dugger, and/or the near fatality victim:

On August 24, 2004, a report was received alleging neglect, physical, and emotional abuse to a sibling by the mother, Melissa Loyd. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On April 28, 2005, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a sibling by the father, Michael Dugger. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 3, 2005, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a sibling by the parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger. The report also alleged physical abuse to a cousin by Melissa Loyd. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family participated in in-home services and the case was closed.

On September 19, 2006, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a sibling by the mother, Melissa Loyd. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the removal of all of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and was providing services to the family when a subsequent report was received.

On June 5, 2007, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim by the parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger. The child was born during the open dependency case and due to the prior substantiated physical abuse to the sibling, there were concerns for physical abuse to the newborn child as well. The child was removed and added to the dependency case. The allegations were unsubstantiated.



On March 17, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the mother, Melissa Loyd. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On July 16, 2016, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to the near fatality victim. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when the report of the near fatality incident was received.

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

A joint investigation is being 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 children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim will also be placed in care.

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.