



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>12/27/21</b>
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**Amendments to the information originally posted on 08/10/2020 are displayed below in red.**

**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 2-month-old female

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 2/6/2020

**3. Date of near fatality:** 2/6/2020

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

Dontae Lavvone Johnson - 3/9/2020

Brittany Leigh Mccoy - 11/17/21

**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:**

Dontae Lavvone Johnson – age 29 – Phoenix, AZ

Brittany Leigh Mccoy –age 30- Phoenix, AZ

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

On February 6, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding twin 2-month-old females who had been transported to the hospital with life threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma. The children had been in the care of their father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, when they were injured. Eventually, Dontae Lavvone Johnson admitted to shaking the twins on several occasions causing the injuries. He was arrested on March 9, 2020, and charged with multiple counts of child abuse. A dependency petition was filed on February 11, 2020, with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the twins and their siblings. On March 12, 2020, a petition for termination of parental rights was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the twins and their siblings. **On February 9, 2021, the court granted the petition and terminated the father's, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, parental rights to the near fatality victims and her siblings. On November 17, 2021, the court granted the petition for termination of mother's, Brittany Leigh Mccoy, parental rights to the near fatality victim and her siblings.**

**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 Dontae Lavyone Johnson and the child's mother:

On December 15, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, **Brittany Leigh Mccoy**, and Dontae Lavvone Johnson. The report was closed on May 5, 2019 and the allegations were substantiated **as to both parents.**

**9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the near 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 children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim and her twin were placed in a licensed foster home.

**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.