Arizona Department of Child Safety



Douglas A. Ducey Governor

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	09/27/18
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 5 month old - Male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 10/17/17

3. Date of near fatality: 10/17/17

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

Samantha Lyons – 09/19/18 Unidentified Lyons – 06/26/18

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:

Samantha Lyons – age 24 - Phoenix Unidentified Lyons

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

On October 17, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5 month old child who was found unresponsive while in the care of a family member. At the hospital, it was determined the child had a brain bleed and retinal hemorrhages in both eyes and the injuries were suspected to be non-accidental. It was later determined the child was in critical condition. The Court found that the termination of Samantha Lyons rights was in the best interest of this child based on concerns the mother physically abused the child.

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 no prior reports involving Samantha Lyons and/or the near fatality victim.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Glendale 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 removed and placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was 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 including services to support the other child in the home.

*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).



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Gregory McKay Director

Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.