



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	5/18/2021
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 9-month-old-female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 09/13/20

3. Date of near fatality: 09/13/20

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

Brandon Smith -- 10/21/20

Jessica Sullivan - 1/20/21

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:

Brandon Smith – age 29 – Phoenix, AZ

Jessica Sullivan – age 27 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On September 13, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9-month-old baby who had been taken to the hospital after she was not breathing and having seizures at home. The child tested positive for illegal substances. On September 17, 2020, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The Court, on October 21, 2020, found the child to be dependent to the father, Brandon Smith. On January 20, 2021, the Court also found the child to be dependent to the mother, Jessica Sullivan.

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):**

Jessica Sullivan, the mother, and/or the near fatality victim were involved in the following prior reports:

On April 4, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to another child by Jessica Sullivan. The child was removed from the home and placed with relatives. The mother was offered services including drug testing/treatment and parenting services. The mother did not make the necessary behavioral changes for reunification and the child was adopted by family members.

On November 27, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to another child by Jessica Sullivan. The child was placed with relatives while Jessica participated in services including parenting and drug treatment. The dependency was dismissed in May 2016 and the child was reunified with Jessica.

On December 5, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family declined voluntary services offered by the Department and the case was closed.

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:

There were no other children in the home.

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.