



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of **CHILD SAFETY**

Michael Wisehart, Interim Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	04/05/2023
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 5-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 06/01/2021
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 06/01/2021
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 08/25/2021
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Mesa, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Vincent Winston – age 36 – Mesa, AZ

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

On June 1, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. The child tested positive for Fentanyl. No explanations were given on how the child obtained access to Fentanyl. On June 4, 2021, the Department filed a dependency petition on behalf of the child with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. On August 25, 2021, the Court found that the child was dependent as to the father, Vincent Winston, based on "the father's failure to maintain a safe and appropriate home environment to protect the child from drugs."

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 reports involving Vincent Winston and/or the near fatality victim:

On May 4, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by the father, Vincent Winston, and the mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided child care and access to community resources.

On June 19, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by their mother. 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 next report was received.

On August 3, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by their mother. There was also an allegation of physical abuse to the near fatality victim

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by an unknown perpetrator. The allegations of neglect were substantiated and resulted in the removal of all of the children from the home. Following an assessment of child safety, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court against both of the near fatality victim's parents. The father, Vincent Winston, successfully completed services and the near fatality victim was returned home in November 2018. The siblings were returned home to their father in September 2019.

On March 8, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the father, Vincent Winston. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The father declined voluntary in-home 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 Mesa 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.