



Summary Report	Fatality	11/4/16
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1. Victim: Amora Richards – 3-month-old female

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On September 23, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-month-old Amora Richards. Amora was found unresponsive after being placed face down on an adult pillow with soft bedding and blankets in her bassinette. The allegations of neglect to Amora by her mother, Amanda Jackson, and her father, Leondre Richards were substantiated by the Department.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

The Department was in the process of referring the family for services due to the investigation of an open report dated August 26, 2015. The report concerned an allegation of neglect to Amora by her parents. The parents had agreed to participate in in-home services through the Department and a safety plan was in place. The case was pending services when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on September 1, 2016.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

Amora Richards, her father, Leondre Richards, and her mother, Amanda Jackson, were subjects of the August 26, 2015 report.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

The child's parents were involved in the following:

On August 26, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Amora by her parents, Leondre Richards and Amanda Jackson. The investigation assessed the baby as safe with the parents with a safety plan in place. The family agreed to participate in in-home services and the case was pending services when the fatality report was received. The allegations as to the parents have since been substantiated.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:



The report regarding the fatality was investigated and the case was closed. The allegations of neglect to Amora by her parents were substantiated. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Apache County Sheriff's Office. There were no other children in the home and the case was closed. The allegations of neglect to Amora by her mother, Amanda Jackson, and her father, Leondre Richards, were substantiated.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is December 1, 2017.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>.