



Summary Report	Fatality	1/9/2020
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1. Victim: Brayden McDonald – 2 ½ month old male

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 his home when the following incident occurred:

On November 4, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding twins Brayden and Lyam McDonald who had been transported to the hospital with multiple life threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma. The injuries ultimately resulted in the deaths of Brayden and Lyam McDonald on November 8, 2019. The children had been in the care of their father, Travis McDonald, when they were injured and the Department substantiated the allegations of death child abuse against him. On November 20, 2019 the Department of Child Safety filed a dependency petition with Pinal Superior Court regarding the other children in the home. On November 25, 2019 the court found that Stefanie Brideschge failed to protect the twins from abuse.

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:

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

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?

No.

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:

There has been no prior involvement of the child's parents, Stefanie Brideschge or Travis McDonald with the Department of Child Safety.

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 investigation of the fatality report resulted in the other children in the home being placed in an in-home dependency with Pinal Superior Court. The Pinal Superior Court found the children dependent as to the mother, Stefanie Brideschge. The Department substantiated the allegations of



the child death abuse against the Father, Travis McDonald. The Department is providing services to the family. No subsequent reports 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 of Child Safety conducted a joint investigation with Coolidge Police Department. The Department substantiated the allegations of death child abuse as to Travis McDonald. The other children in the home were placed in an in-home dependency with Pinal Superior Court. Services are being provided to the family.

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.

Cases are 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 uses 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 are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2020.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.