



Summary Report	Fatality	1/26/17
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1. **Victim:** Jorgan Tait – 8-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 June 23, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 8-month-old Jorgan Tait who was unresponsive after being found at home wedged between a mattress and a wall. Jorgan was transported to a hospital where he remained unresponsive until his death on June 30, 2016. The investigation determined that Jorgan had been in the care of his biological mother, Kirsten Berry, who had placed him to sleep on her bed and left him unsupervised for several hours. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Kirsten Berry has been substantiated due to the lack of supervision and the unsafe sleeping circumstances that resulted in Jorgan's death.

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:

The child's mother, Kirsten Berry, and/or his father have been involved in the following reports in the five years preceding the incident

On November 5, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Jorgan's siblings by their mother, Kirsten Berry, and their father. The investigation resulted in the Department filing a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court. The allegations as to the parents were substantiated and the Department was providing the family with services when a subsequent report was received.

On November 26, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Jorgan's siblings by their mother, Kirsten Berry, and the father to one of the siblings. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court for one of the children and substantiated the allegations as to that child. The case remained open and the Department continued providing services to the family when a subsequent report was received.



On October 30, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Jorgan Tait by his mother, Kirsten Berry, and his father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and substantiated the allegations. The Department continued to provide services and the case was later closed.

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 removal of the other children in the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and substantiated the allegations. Services were also provided.

A subsequent report was received on July 5, 2016 alleging neglect and physical abuse prior to the removal of the children from the home. The allegations of neglect pertaining to one of the siblings were substantiated.

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 Pima County Sheriff's Department. The other children in the home were removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court. Services were provided and the allegations 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



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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>.