



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>3/12/2020</b>
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**1. Victim:** Khayden Hudgens – two-year-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 7, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Khayden Hudgens who had been transported to the hospital with severe bruising and injuries. The injuries were determined to be non-accidental and resulted in Khayden's death on November 8, 2017. Khayden had been in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Jeremy Lundberg. Following the completion of the joint investigation, the Department substantiated allegations of abuse against Jeremy. The Department also determined that the child's mother, Theresa Miller, failed to protect Khayden by leaving him in the care of Jeremy Lundberg after observing previous unexplained injuries on Khayden.

**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:**

Although no services were being provided to the family prior to the November 7, 2017 near fatality incident, Theresa Miller was being investigated for one open reports dated July 30, 2017. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on August 1, 2017.

**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?**

The mother, Theresa Miller, was a subject of the July 30, 2017 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:**

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Theresa Miller, the mother, and/or Khayden's father:

On July 30, 2017 a report was received alleging neglect to Khayden's half siblings by Theresa Miller, Khayden's father, and another adult. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Theresa Miller and Khayden's father. The case was closed in regards to Theresa Miller and Khayden's father.

There are no priors involving Jeremy Lundberg.

**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:**

A subsequent report involving half siblings was received on January 29, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to other children by Theresa Miller and other adults. There was a dependency petition filed and the allegations were substantiated as to Theresa Miller.

**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 Phoenix Police Department. At the conclusion of the joint investigations, allegations of abuse were substantiated against the mother's boyfriend, Jeremy Lundgren, as well as allegations of neglect were substantiated against the mother, Theresa Miller. The Department filed a dependency petition in regards to Khayden's half siblings; however, they were not living in the home of maltreatment at the time of the fatality report. Services were 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.