

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Gregory McKay Director

Fatality	4/9/18
	Fatality

**1. Victim:** Miracle Bruner – 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 October 27, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-month-old Miracle Bruner who was transported to the hospital after becoming unresponsive at home. Miracle was found to have extensive injuries including retinal hemorrhages and abusive head trauma. She later died from her injuries on November 3, 2017. The child had been in the care of her father, Terry Bruner, who was later charged with child abuse and murder.

## 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:

DCS has received no prior reports involving Terry Bruner in the five years preceding the incident.

DCS has received the following report involving Miracle Bruner and her mother in the five years preceding the incident:

On August 6, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Miracle Bruner by her mother. The investigation determined that the mother was receiving services in the community to address her needs. The Department provided the family with information on additional resources. The allegation was substantiated and the case was 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:

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**Douglas A. Ducey** Governor

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The criminal investigation of the fatality resulted in the child's father, Terry Bruner, being charged with child abuse and murder. There were no other children in the home and the case was closed with no services provided. 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 conducted a joint investigation with the Tucson Police Department. Terry Bruner was charged with child abuse and murder. There were no other children in the home and the case was closed.

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, 2018.

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