



Summary Report	Fatality	9/1/6
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1. Victim: Rackhem Wall – 8-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 September 10, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Rackhem Wall being involved in a car accident on September 9, 2015. Rackhem died on September 10, 2015 from his injuries. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to Rackhem's mother, Colleen Wall, when she became distracted while driving, ran a red light and caused a collision which resulted in Rackhem'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:

The Department was providing services to the family at the time of the incident. Although, Rackhem Wall's dependency petition had been dismissed on June 8, 2015 and he was returned home, his sibling remained in foster care and the family was participating in services. The last contact the Department had with the family was on June 8, 2015.

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 following reports have been received regarding Rackhem's mother, Colleen Wall and/or his father:

On June 11, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Rackhem and two siblings by their father. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was open pending necessary documentation when the following report was received.

On July 10, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Rackhem and a sibling by Colleen Wall and their father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations were substantiated. The family participated in services, the dependency was dismissed and the case was closed.

On May 23, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Rackhem by his father. The family was provided with services available in the community. The allegation was



unsubstantiated. The case remained open pending documentation when the subsequent report was received.

On May 27, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Rackhem and his sibling by Colleen Wall and their father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations were substantiated as to Colleen Wall and unsubstantiated as to their father. The case remained open and the family was participating in services when the subsequent report was received.

On May 22, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Rackhem's sibling by Colleen Wall. The allegation was substantiated and the family continued to participate in services. The case was open and the Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

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 Department conducted a joint investigation with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. The Department substantiated neglect allegations as to Rackhem's mother, Colleen Wall, when she became distracted while driving, ran a red light and caused a collision resulting in Rackhem's death. The family was participating in services from the DCS prior to the fatality incident and continues to do so.

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 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. The Department substantiated neglect allegations as to Rackhem's mother, Colleen Wall, when she



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

became distracted while driving, ran a red light and caused a collision resulting in Rackhem's death.

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>.