



Summary Report	Fatality	3/26/2021
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1. Victim: Rakim Ramsay – 1-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 14, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-month-old Rakim Ramsay who was found unresponsive by his parents, Latricia Payne and Joshua Ramsay. Rakim passed away the following day on November 15, 2019. The parents were co-sleeping with the child in their bed, which contributed to the child's death. On December 15, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the father, Joshua Ramsay. On December 23, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the mother, Latricia Payne.

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:

There were no services 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 received the following prior report involving Latricia Payne:

On May 13, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Latricia Payne. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Joshua Ramsay.

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:

Following an initial assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe with their parents. After additional information was received, the children were removed. The

Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The allegations of neglect by the parents, Latricia Payne and Joshua Ramsay, were substantiated. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe with their parents. After additional information was received, the children were removed and placed with a relative. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The allegations of neglect by the parents, Latricia Payne and Joshua Ramsay, were substantiated. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice safe sleep. For additional information please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/Services/Safe-Sleep>.

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, 2021.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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