



Summary Report	Fatality	4/23/2021
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1. Victim: Royalty Winston-Street – 19-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 May 17, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Royalty Winston-Street (19 month old female) presenting to the hospital in critical condition due to choking. On May 21, 2018, the child was taken off of life support and passed away. On June 5, 2019, the Maricopa County Superior Court found that the neglect of Royalty by her mother, Blondella Winston, and father, Cory Street, contributed to her 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 in the process of reunifying the children with parents, Blondella Winston and Cory Street. The dependency matter was still ongoing when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact before the incident between the Department and the family was on May 4, 2018.

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?

N/A

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 reports involving Blondella Winston and Cory Street:

On July 15, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, Blondella Winston. While this investigation was ongoing, another report was received alleging neglect by the mother, Blondella Winston, on July 18, 2014. On August 26, 2014, an in-home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court alleging neglect by the mother, Blondella Winston. The Department provided substance abuse services and in home services to the family.

On December 14, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, Blondella Winston and father, Cory Street. The previous in-home dependency was ongoing however, it was determined to file an out of home dependency with the Maricopa County Superior Court on December 30, 2014, regarding the younger children in the home. On December 10, 2015,



the dependency was dismissed, the children were ordered back into the mother's care and the case was closed.

On October 15, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to Royalty Winston-Street, by her mother. DCS found evidence to support the allegations and removed the children. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on October 19, 2016. On January 20, 2017, the court found that Royalty and her siblings were dependent as to their mother, Blondella Winston and father, Cory Street.

On April 3, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect by mother, Blondella Winston, to Royalty Winston and her siblings. The investigation assessed the older siblings residing in the mother's home as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The dependency filed in 2016 was still ongoing at this time.

On February 21, 2018, the court ruled the child, Royalty Winston, to return home by March 2, 2018. The child, Royalty Winston-Street, was in the physical custody of her parents, Blondella Winston and Cory Street, and the legal custody of the Department when the fatality occurred.

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 of Royalty Winston-Street resulted in her siblings being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a severance motion with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the siblings on August 8, 2018. The termination of parent rights was granted on June 4, 2019.

A subsequent report involving the parents, Blondella Winston and Cory Street, and a sibling was received on August 1, 2018, regarding allegations of neglect. That child was taken into custody and placed in a licensed foster home.

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. The investigation of the fatality of Royalty Winston-Street resulted in her siblings being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a severance motion with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the siblings on August 8, 2018. The termination of parent rights was granted on June 4, 2019.

A subsequent report involving the parents, Blondella Winston and Cory Street, and a sibling was received on August 1, 2018, regarding allegations of neglect. That child was taken into custody and placed in a licensed foster home.

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.