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| <b>Summary Report</b> | <b>Fatality</b> | <b>8/10/17</b> |
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**1. Victim:** Saviear Jones – 5 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 28, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 5-year-old Saviear Jones who had been shot at home and was later pronounced deceased. The investigation determined that the gun belonged to the child's father, Michael Jones, and had been left loaded and accessible to the child. The father was later charged with manslaughter and child abuse in recklessly causing the 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:**

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 Michael Jones as an alleged perpetrator. The child's mother was involved in the following reports in the five years preceding the incident:

On March 21, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to the child and his siblings by the mother. The allegations were substantiated. The family was offered services by the Department, but declined. Information on resources available in the community were provided and the case was closed.

On October 24, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to the child's sibling by the mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the family was provided with information on resources available in the community.

On March 25, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the child's sibling by the mother. The allegation was substantiated and the family was provided with services through the Department.



**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 report resulted in Michael Jones being charged with manslaughter and child abuse. The other children were assessed as safe in the home with a Safety Plan and the family was provided with services. 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 Avondale Police Department. Michael Jones was charged with manslaughter and child abuse. The other children in the home were initially assessed as safe with the parents with a Safety Plan in place. The case was later closed after successful completion of services provided by the Department. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice firearm safety and always store all firearms unloaded, in a secure locked location.

For additional information on firearm safety, please visit the Arizona Firearm Injury Prevention Coalition's website at: <http://www.afipc.org/afipc.html>.

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



## *Arizona Department of Child Safety*

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**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

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>.