

Summary Report	Fatality	11/05/2024
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This child was previously posted as a near-fatality on 08/10/2020.

1. Victim: Aubrielle Johnson 2-year-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 9, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Aubrielle Johnson, who was found unresponsive in her placement's home. Aubrielle was removed from her parents' home on February 7, 2020, when the father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, admitted to shaking the child on several occasions resulting in life-threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma. Ultimately, the child died due to the injuries caused by her father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, on October 9, 2022. The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse by the father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson. On May 24, 2024, Dontae Lavvone Johnson was convicted of two counts of child abuse and two counts of attempted child abuse. He received consecutive sentences of 17 years and 10 years along with lifetime supervised probation with domestic violence terms.

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 as a dependency petition had been filed in response to the initial report received on February 6, 2020. The child was residing in an adoptive licensed foster home when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact between the Department and the foster home was on September 9, 2022.

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?

The father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, the mother, Aubrielle Johnson, and siblings were subjects of the September 9, 2022, report.

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 Dontae Lavvone Johnson and the child's mother:

On December 15, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson. The report was closed and the allegations were substantiated as to both parents.

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 report regarding the fatality was investigated and the case was closed. Dontae Lavvone Johnson was convicted of two counts of child abuse and two counts of attempted child abuse. The siblings and other children in the home where the incident occurred were found to be safe in the care of their licensed foster placements. The foster family was provided with information on services available in the community. The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse by the father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson.

A subsequent report involving the parents, Aubrielle Johnson and her siblings was received on June 27, 2020, regarding allegations of physical abuse and neglect that occurred prior to the children coming into care. The allegations were unsubstantiated. This report was open when the next report was received.

An additional subsequent report alleging sexual abuse by the parents to siblings prior to the children coming into care was received on July 10, 2020. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were assessed as safe in out-of-home placement. The two reports were closed on December 11, 2020.

An additional subsequent report alleging neglect by the mother to Aubrielle Johnson and her siblings was received on May 27, 2021. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were assessed as safe in out-of-home placement. The case was closed on August 11, 2021.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

Although the child was residing in an out-of-home placement, the child died due to the injuries caused while in her parent's home.

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 Glendale Police Department. Dontae Lavvone Johnson was convicted of two counts of child abuse and two counts of attempted child abuse. He received consecutive sentences of 17 years and 10 years along with lifetime supervised probation with domestic violence terms. The siblings and other children in the home where the fatality incident occurred were found to be safe in the care of their licensed foster placements. The child passed away before she was legally adopted by the foster home. The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse by the father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson.

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 fatality and near fatality cases with prior DCS involvement, which are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and supports 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, 2024.