



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Michael Wisehart, Interim Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Summary Report	Fatality	04/03/2023
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1. Victim: Chase Miles – 8-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 an unlicensed relative's home when the following incident occurred:

On July 20, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 8-month-old, Chase Miles. The child was found unresponsive after co-sleeping with his parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles. He was pronounced deceased at the home. The child was residing with an unlicensed relative under a safety plan due an ongoing dependency matter. The relative allowed unsupervised contact between Chase Miles and his parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles. On February 17, 2023, the Department substantiated allegations of neglect by the parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles towards Chase Miles.

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 prior report. The child was residing in a relative's home with a safety plan in place when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on July 1, 2021.

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 child and his parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles, were subjects of the October 13, 2020 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 Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles:

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On October 13, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Chase Miles by his parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles. Following an assessment of child safety, Chase Miles was placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Juvenile Court on October 23, 2020, and the allegations were substantiated. 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 report regarding the fatality was investigated and the case was closed on 9/17/22. The allegations of neglect to Chase by his parents, Kaylen Shaffer and Christopher Miles, were substantiated. The investigation also resulted in a separate report regarding the unlicensed relatives the child was residing with when he passed away. That investigation resulted in the Department substantiating the allegation of neglect by the relatives to Chase Miles. There were no other children residing in the home. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

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 Pima County Sheriff's Office. There were no other children in the home and the case was closed on 9/17/22. The allegations of neglect to Chase Miles by his mother, Kaylen Shaffer, and his father, Christopher Miles, were substantiated. The investigation also resulted in a separate report regarding the unlicensed relatives the child was residing with when he passed away. That investigation resulted in the Department substantiating the allegations of neglect by the relatives to Chase Miles. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family. No additional services were provided to the family after the fatality incident.

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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 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, 2023.