

Summary Report	Fatality	04/18/2024
-----------------------	-----------------	-------------------

1. Victim: Keandre Gant Jr – 2-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 March 24, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Keandre Gant Jr. being found deceased at home. On February 6, 2024, the child's mother, Katie Hernandez, was indicted on charges of first degree murder for Keandre's 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:

Although no services were being provided prior to the March 24, 2023 fatality report, the family was being investigated for an open report from March 23, 2023. An investigation was initiated and the siblings had been taken into DCS custody when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact with the family and Department had been on March 23, 2023.

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's mother, Katie Hernandez, the child's father, and siblings were subjects of the March 23, 2023 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 reports involving Katie Hernandez:

On September 25, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Katie Hernandez. The family was referred to services available in the community. In-home services were declined by the family. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed November 26, 2018.

On March 23, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their father and mother, Katie Hernandez. The children were taken into DCS custody and the case was pending further investigation when the fatality report was received. The family has been offered services. The allegations have since been substantiated.

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 the child's mother, Katie Hernandez, being indicted on charges of first degree murder for Keandre's death. The siblings have been placed with relatives and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court. Services are being provided. 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 Tucson Police Department. On February 6, 2024, the child's mother, Katie Hernandez, was indicted on charges of first degree murder for Keandre's death. The siblings have been placed with relatives and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court. Services are being provided. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

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.