

Summary Report	Fatality	08/06/2024
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1. Victim: Kumalo Molina – 7-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 a relative's home when the following incident occurred:

On June 12, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 7-month-old Kumalo Molina. The child was found unresponsive in his crib with several large blankets and was pronounced deceased at the home. On July 9, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by relative caregiver, Imani Muhammad, to Kumalo Molina.

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 when the fatality report was received. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on May 27, 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?

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:

There were no prior DCS reports involving Imani Muhammad.

The child's mother was involved in the following prior reports:

On December 4, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the home and placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Juvenile Court. The allegations of neglect were substantiated and the mother's parental rights to the child were terminated.

On October 26, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to Kumalo by his mother. Following an assessment of child safety, Kumalo was placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Superior Court. On July 21, 2022, the dependency action was dismissed prior to adjudication and the allegations were unsubstantiated. 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. The other children in the home were assessed as safe in the care of their parents. The allegation of neglect to Kumalo by his relative caregiver, Imani Muhammad, was substantiated. 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. The other children in the home were assessed as safe in the care of their parents. The allegation

of neglect to Kumalo by his relative caregiver, Imani Muhammad, was substantiated. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

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, 2024.