



Summary Report	Fatality	11/21/2022
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1. Victim: Scarlett Hughes – 3-month-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 May 10, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report involving 3-month-old Scarlett Hughes regarding an incident that occurred in the home. The child was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced deceased on May 12, 2019. Once it was determined that Scarlett's injuries were non-accidental, the Department filed a dependency petition in regards to the surviving child against Steven Hughes, the father, and Tatum Shocklee, the mother, with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court on May 29, 2019. The petition alleged that Scarlett died from abuse and that the parents had either abused her or failed to protect her from abuse. On May 27, 2021, the Maricopa County Juvenile Court found the dependency stating the home was unfit by reason of abuse and/or neglect of Scarlett resulting in her 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:

There were no services 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:

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

On October 24, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Tatum Shocklee, the mother. The allegation was substantiated. The family declined to participate in Department in-home services. They were provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On February 12, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to Scarlett by her mother, Tatum Shocklee. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.



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 a sibling being placed in a relative's home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and was providing services to 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 Glendale Police Department. The police investigation is closed with no charges filed. The Department removed a sibling from the home and filed a dependency with the Maricopa County Juvenile Department. That child was placed in a relative's home. Services were provided. There were no subsequent reports received.

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.

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, 2021.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.