

Summary Report	Fatality	09/10/2024
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1. Victim: Theodore Antonsen– 9-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 July 14, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 9-year-old, Theodore Antonsen, who was found deceased at his home. It was reported that on July 12, 2024, Theodore was having difficulty breathing, went limp, and became unresponsive at home. The father, Joseph Antonsen, did not seek medical care for Theodore and left Theodore alone in the home until July 14, 2024, when law enforcement was contacted. On July 25, 2024, the father, Joseph Antonsen, was indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury for two counts of child abuse and manslaughter.

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.

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 has been no prior involvement of the child's parents with DCS.

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 has resulted in the father, Joseph Antonsen, being indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury on charges of child abuse and manslaughter. There were no other children in the home. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect involving 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 is conducting a joint investigation with the Pima County Sheriff's Office. The investigation of the fatality remains open and has resulted in the father, Joseph Antonsen, being indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury on charges of child abuse and manslaughter. There were no other children in the home. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect involving 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.