

Summary Report	Near Fatality	04/18/2024
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1. Victim: eight-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 near fatality?

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On September 10, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding neglect to an eight-month-old male. The child was brought to the hospital by his parents due to concerns for the child's weight. Upon evaluation, it was determined that the child was in serious condition and was diagnosed with failure to thrive, protein malnutrition and developmental delays. On September 16, 2022, a dependency petition was filed with Pima County Superior Court. On March 21, 2023, the court found that the parents, Amber Runningwolf and David Jordan, neglected the near fatality victim.

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, Amber Runningwolf, was involved in the following prior report:

On July 10, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse toward a child by mother and step-father. The allegations against mother and step-father were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on September 27, 2019. No services were offered to the family.

On October 17, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect towards the children by mother, Amber Runningwolf and their father. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the removal of all of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and was providing services to the family. The Dependency was dismissed on May 6, 2021, and the children were returned to their father's care.

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 near fatality:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the child being placed in licensed foster care after his release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with Pima County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect pertaining to Amber Runningwolf and David Jordan.

A subsequent report alleging neglect to a newborn sibling was received on June 6, 2023. The allegation is proposed to substantiate and an out of home dependency was filed. The child is placed in the same licensed foster home as their sibling.

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 Pima County Sheriff's Office. Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in licensed foster care. There were no other children in the home. On September 16, 2022, a dependency petition was filed with Pima County Superior Court. On March 21, 2023, the court found that the parents, Amber

Runningwolf and David Jordan, neglected the near fatality victim. A subsequent report alleging neglect to a newborn sibling was received on June 6, 2023. The allegation is proposed to substantiate and an out of home dependency was filed. The child is placed in same licensed foster home as their sibling.

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.