



Summary Report	Near Fatality	8/10/2020
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1. Victim: 2-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 near fatality?

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

On February 6, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding twin 2-month-old females who had been transported to the hospital with life threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma. The children had been in the care of their father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, when they were injured. Eventually, Dontae Lavvone Johnson admitted to shaking the twins on several occasions causing the injuries. He was arrested on March 9, 2020, and charged with multiple counts of child abuse. A dependency petition was filed on February 11, 2020, with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the twins and their siblings. On March 12, 2020, a petition for termination of parental rights was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court regarding the twins and their siblings.

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:

No services were 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:

DCS received the following prior report involving Dontae Lavvone Johnson and the child's mother:

On December 15, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and Dontae Lavvone Johnson. The report was closed and the allegations were 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 near fatality:



The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the arrest of Dontae Lavvone Johnson for multiple counts of child abuse. The near fatality victim was placed in licensed foster care with her twin after her release from the hospital. The other children have been placed in licensed foster homes. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. No subsequent reports have been made.

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 Phoenix Police Department. Dontae Lavvone Johnson was arrested for felony child abuse. The other children in the home have been placed in licensed foster care. The near fatality victim was placed in a licensed foster home with her twin upon release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and services are being provided.

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.

This case was 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 is using 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 will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is December 1, 2020.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>.