



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>11/4/16</b>
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**1. Victim:** 9-year-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 October 3, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging neglect, physical, and emotional abuse to the near fatality victim. The child was located and observed to have extensive bruising, lacerations, and abrasions. She was transported to the hospital where it was determined by a physician that her injuries placed her in serious or critical condition. On October 18, 2016, the child's parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger, were arrested for child abuse.

**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:**

Although no services were being provided prior to the October 3, 2016 near fatality report, the family was being investigated for an open report from July 16, 2016. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when the report of the near fatality incident was received.

**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?**

The child and her parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger, were subjects of the July 16, 2016 report.

**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 parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger, were involved in the following reports in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

On March 17, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the mother, Melissa Loyd. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On July 16, 2016, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to the near fatality victim by the parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when the report of the near fatality incident 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 near fatality:**

The investigation of the near fatality resulted in the child's parents, Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger, being arrested for child abuse. The other children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. The victim was also placed in care upon release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services are being provided.

A subsequent report involving the parents and a sibling was received on October 28, 2016, regarding allegations of abuse that occurred prior to the child coming into care. The investigation is ongoing.

**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. Melissa Loyd and Michael Dugger were arrested for felony child abuse. The victim and other children in the home have been placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services are being provided. A subsequent report involving the parents and a sibling was received on October 28, 2016, regarding allegations of abuse that occurred prior to the child coming into care. The investigation is ongoing.

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



## *Arizona Department of Child Safety*

**Douglas A. Ducey**  
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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, 2017.

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>.