



Summary Report	Near Fatality	10/01/18
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1. Victim: 5 years 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 March 4, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5 year old female who was involved in a head-on collision. At the hospital, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to injuries sustained as a result of being unrestrained in a vehicle driven by the mother, Natasha Brown. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect to the mother, Natasha Brown.

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:

The child's mother, Natasha Brown, was involved in the following prior reports in the preceding five years:

On May 4, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim's sibling by the mother, Natasha Brown. The Department provided the mother with child care services. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On June 28, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim's sibling by the mother, Natasha Brown. The mother was receiving services through tribal social services and declined services offered by the Department. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On July 16, 2015, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the mother, Natasha Brown. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.



On July 21, 2017, the Department received a report alleging neglect the near fatality victim's sibling by the mother, Natasha Brown. The allegations were unsubstantiated 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 near fatality:

While it was substantiated that the Mother was negligent in not placing the child in a child safety seat, she was not deemed at fault in the head-on collision which resulted in the near fatality. Following an assessment of child safety, one child went to live with another parent. Upon their release from the hospital, the near fatality victim went to live with a relative. The five-year-old near fatality victim continued to require intensive medical services and remained at a healthcare facility.

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:

While it was substantiated that the Mother was negligent in not placing the child in a child safety seat, she was not deemed at fault in the head-on collision which resulted in the near fatality. Following an assessment of child safety, one child went to live with another parent. Upon their release from the hospital, the near fatality victim went to live with a relative. The five-year-old near fatality victim continued to require intensive medical services and remained at a healthcare facility. No subsequent reports have been 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.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

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, 2018.

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/strategic-plan>.

The Department reminds all caregivers to always properly restrain children in vehicles.

For additional information please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Office of Injury Prevention: A Safe Ride home at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/injury-prevention/index.php#safe-ride-home>