

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Near Fatality	5/3/18
	Near Fatality

### 1. Victim: 6-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 February 13, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 6-year-old girl who was transported to the hospital on February 12, 2018 with injuries sustained in a car accident. The child was not restrained when the accident occurred and she was determined to be in critical condition. The child was in the vehicle with her mother and her father who was driving. On March 8, 2018 and April 9, 2018, the Maricopa County Juvenile Court found through a dependency proceeding that the child's father, John Perry, and mother, Kristen Parisi, neglected her by failing to ensure she was restrained in the vehicle.

### 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 Kristin Parisi in the five years preceding the incident:

On October 4, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of the near fatality victim by by Kristin Parisi. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community 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:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the other child in the home being placed with a relative. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed with the relative. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and



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Gregory McKay Director

is providing services to the family. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

## 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 Phoenix Police Department. The near fatality victim and another child in the home were placed with a relative and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. Services are being provided to support the family. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

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#saferide-home

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.

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, 2018.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.