



Summary Report	Near Fatality	2/3/17
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1. Victim: 5-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 December 29, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-year-old girl who had been scalded in a bathtub at home. The child was admitted to the hospital in critical condition. The investigation determined she had been in the care of her mother, Samantha Osteraas, who has been charged with 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:

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:

There has been no prior involvement of Samantha Osteraas with DCS.

The child's biological parents were involved in the following:

On December 7, 2012 and December 17, 2012, reports were received alleging neglect to an unknown child by unknown parents. An investigation was initiated and it was later determined that the child involved was the current near fatality victim. The case was open when a subsequent report was received. The allegations were later unsubstantiated.

On April 2, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by her biological parents. The child was removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court. The allegations were substantiated.

On November 23, 2015, a report was received alleging past sexual abuse to the child by her biological father and physical abuse by her biological mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated.



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 Samantha Osteraas being charged with two counts of felony child abuse. The other children in the home were removed and placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and services are being provided. The near fatality victim remains hospitalized. 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 conducted a joint investigation with the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Samantha Osteraas has been charged with child abuse. The other children in the home were removed and placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and services are being provided. The near fatality victim remains hospitalized. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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.

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, 2017.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
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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>.