



Summary Report	Near Fatality	10/1/18
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1. **Victim:** 2-year-old male

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 his home when the following incident occurred:

On August 28, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old male that was unrestrained in a vehicle occupied by both parents, Brandon and Cecilly. The vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle collision and the child sustained critical, life threatening injuries. On July 23, 2018, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect as to both parents.

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 has received no prior reports involving the near fatality victim or Brandon Bellamy.

DCS has received the following prior report involving Cecilly Columbus:

On December 23, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging neglect of two children by Cecilly Columbus. The allegations were substantiated 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 child and their sibling being assessed as safe with the parents. The Department provided in-home services to the family. The allegations of neglect as to both parents were substantiated and the case was closed.



A subsequent report involving a sibling and the mother, Cecilly, was received on July 26, 2018, regarding allegations of physical abuse. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

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 Tempe Police Department. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe with the parents. The sibling was also assessed as safe. The Department provided in-home services. The allegations of neglect were substantiated and the case was closed.

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>

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.