



Summary Report	Near Fatality	07/10/19
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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 June 19, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a two year old male who was unsupervised and had fallen from a window that was approximately 12 feet high. At the hospital, it was determined the child was in critical condition. The Department filed a dependency petition in Navajo County Superior Court on June 22, 2018. It was determined through a dependency proceeding on October 22, 2018, that the mother, Angela Shultz, had abused, neglected, and/or failed to protect the near fatality victim. On December 27, 2018, it was determined through a dependency proceeding stepfather, Joseph Harris, had abused, neglected, and/or failed to protect the near fatality victim.

- 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:**

The Department had referred the family for services due to an investigation of a report dated May, 4 2018. The report concerned allegations of neglect to the near fatality victim by his mother, Angela and step father, Joseph. The family had agreed to participate in in-home services through the Department. The last contact the Department had with the family was on June 18, 2018.

- 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 his mother, Angela Shultz, and stepfather, Joseph Harris, were the subjects of the May 04, 2018 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 mother, Angela Shultz, step-father, Joseph Harris, were involved in the following:

On May 4, 2018 a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child by Angela Shultz and Joseph Harris. The child was transported to the hospital regarding a spiral fracture of his humerus bone. This was the second time he presented to the hospital with a broken bone, however the first broken bone was not reported to the Department of Child Safety. This report was jointly investigated with Navajo County Sheriff's Office. The case was closed as unsubstantiated and the family was offered in-home services.

- 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 being placed with his father after his release from the hospital and sibling being placed in a licensed foster home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Navajo County Superior Court and is providing services to the family.

The investigation resulted in a separate report regarding other children who resided in the home. That investigation resulted in the Department filing a dependency petition for other children.

A subsequent report was made on July 16, 2018, the Department received a report that the near fatality victim's biological father and his significant other were neglecting the child. The DCS investigation found evidence to substantiate the allegation. The child was removed from the father's home and placed in a licensed foster home.

On December 10, 2018, the Department reunified the near fatality victim to Ms. Shultz's home. The sibling was reunified on December 18, 2018. On January 8, 2019, the Superior Court ordered the near fatality victim and his sibling to remain in Ms. Shultz's home under an in-home dependency after Ms. Shultz successfully participated in DCS services.

On January 26, 2019, the Department received a subsequent report alleging Ms. Shultz neglected the near fatality victim and his sibling. The report was unsubstantiated.

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 Navajo County Sheriff's Office. The Department removed other children in the home. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed with his father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Navajo County Superior Court and substantiated the allegations as to Angela Shultz and Joseph Harris. Services are being provided to the family. On December 10, 2018, the Department reunified the near fatality victim to Ms. Shultz's home. The sibling was reunified on December 18, 2018. On



Arizona Department of Child Safety

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Director

January 08, 2019, the Superior Court ordered the children home under an in-home dependency after Ms. Shultz successfully participated in DCS services. A subsequent report was received on January 26, 2019, resulting in the children being placed in a foster 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.

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, 2019.

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>.