



Summary Report	Near Fatality	09/12/19
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1. Victim: 13-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 April 30, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 13-year-old girl who was shot in the chest with a long rifle pellet gun by her stepfather, Isiah Jackson. The child was transported to the hospital where it was determined she was in critical condition and required emergency surgery. On May 8, 2019, Isiah Jackson was indicted on charges of 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:

DCS has received the following report involving the child's parents and/or her stepfather, Isiah Jackson, in the five years preceding the incident:

On May 2, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the children's mother and Isiah Jackson. An investigation was initiated and in progress when another report was received. The allegations were later unsubstantiated.

On May 16, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim by Isiah Jackson. The Department began providing in-home services to the family and the allegation was later unsubstantiated. The case remained open with services and a subsequent report was received.

On September 8, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and siblings by their mother and Isiah Jackson. The Department continued to provide in-home services and the allegations were later unsubstantiated.



On January 30, 2015, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim and a sibling by Isiah Jackson. The investigation resulted in additional allegations of neglect to the children's siblings. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pinal County Superior Court and began providing services to the family. The allegations of abuse by Isiah Jackson were later substantiated. It was also later determined through the dependency proceeding that the near fatality victim had been neglected by her father.

On February 24, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of the near fatality victim by child's mother and Isiah Jackson. The sibling was born while the parents were continuing to engage in services with the Department. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pinal County Superior Court as to the newborn sibling and the allegations were later unsubstantiated.

On January 29, 2016 a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother and Isiah Jackson. The previously filed dependency petition had been dismissed by the court and the child was residing back in the home. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 29, 2016, a report was received alleging sexual abuse to the near fatality victim by Isiah Jackson and an uncle living in the home. The report resulted in allegations of sexual abuse to the siblings as well. The Maricopa Police Department was also involved and the near fatality victim was assessed as safe in the home. The report was open when a new report was received.

On December 10, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother. Both the victim and mother were interviewed and it was determined the child was safe with the mother. The report remained open when a new report was received.

On December 23, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to siblings of the near fatality victim by Isiah Jackson. The Department responded to the report and met with Isiah Jackson who refused to cooperate with the investigation. The report remained open and it was later learned that the family had moved. The case was closed noting that although some contact had been made with the family, it would be classified as unable to locate at this time.

On July 24, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother and Isiah Jackson. The child had been reported as a runaway by the parents and was located by the Surprise Police Department on July 23, 2017. She was returned to the home by police and the family refused to cooperate upon initial contact by the Department. The case was closed with the allegations 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 criminal investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the arrest of the victim's stepfather, Isiah Jackson, for child abuse. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and is providing services to the family.



A subsequent report regarding the near fatality victim and a sibling was received on July 8, 2019 with additional allegations of abuse and neglect by their mother and Isiah Jackson that occurred prior to the children's removal from the home. Those allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were assessed as safe in out-of-home care.

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 Surprise Police Department. The criminal investigation resulted in the arrest of Isiah Jackson for child abuse. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and is providing services to the family.

A subsequent report regarding the near fatality victim and a sibling was received on July 8, 2019 with additional allegations of abuse and neglect by their mother and Isiah Jackson that occurred prior to the children's removal from the home. Those allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were assessed as safe in out-of-home care.

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.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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>.