



Summary Report	Near Fatality	10/13/16
----------------	---------------	----------

**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 5-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 3, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received information that the near fatality victim was taken to a hospital where it was determined he had life threatening injuries that required immediate surgery. During the course of the investigation it was determined that the near fatality victim sustained his injuries while in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Corey Royalty. Corey Royalty was arrested for felony child abuse. In addition, the near fatality victim's mother, Stephanie Berlanga, has been indicted on child abuse charges for failure to get medical treatment for 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:**

No services were being provided to the near fatality victim or his family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

Although no services were being provided to Corey Royalty, two children and their mother prior to the June 3, 2016 near fatality, they were being investigated for a DCS report dated September 7, 2015. The last date of contact the Department of Child Safety had with the family was on September 8, 2015.

**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?**

Corey Royalty, two biological children and their mother were subjects of a September 7, 2015 DCS 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:**

DCS has received the following prior report involving the near fatality victim and his mother, Stephanie Berlanga:

On August 30, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his mother, Stephanie Berlanga. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

DCS has received the following prior report involving Corey Royalty:



On September 7, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Corey Royalty, two children and their mother. Following an assessment of child safety, the Department placed the children with a relative and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations have been proposed for substantiation.

**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:**

Corey Royalty was arrested and indicted for felony child abuse and Stephanie Berlanga was indicted for failing to get medical treatment for the near fatality victim. The Department filed dependency petitions with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court regarding the near fatality victim and his siblings as well as Corey Royalty's other two biological children. The Department is providing services to the families.

No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received by the Department.

**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 Phoenix Police Department. Corey Royalty was arrested and indicted for felony child abuse and Stephanie Berlanga was indicted for failing to get medical treatment for the near fatality victim. The Department filed dependency petitions with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court regarding the near fatality victim and his siblings as well as Corey Royalty's other two biological children. The Department is providing services to the families.

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.



## *Arizona Department of Child Safety*

**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

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.

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>.