



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Summary Report	Near Fatality	05/16/2023
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 7/07/22 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: 16-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 2/21/2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 16-year-old female with pre-existing medical needs being hospitalized due to being extremely underweight. She was diagnosed as failure to thrive due to an extreme state of malnutrition. On 3/18/2022, an indictment was filed in the Superior Court of Yavapai County, Arizona, charging Bruce Bloomquist with the crime of child abuse. **On March 15, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Superior court alleging neglect to the near fatality victim. On May 31, 2022, the court found her legal guardian, Sherrian Bloomquist, neglected 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:

There were no services 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 the child's legal guardians with DCS.

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The child's biological mother was involved in the following report in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

On July 8, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the mother's other children that were in her care. The near fatality victim was not involved in this report. The report was substantiated and the siblings were removed from the home. A dependency petition was filed on July 17, 2017, and the family was provided services. Parental rights were terminated on February 25, 2020 for these children and their parents.

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:

There are no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect that 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 Sedona Police Department. On 3/18/22, an indictment was filed in the Superior Court of Yavapai County, Arizona, against Bruce Bloomquist with the crime of child abuse. The near fatality victim and other child in the home have been placed in licensed foster care. On March 15, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Juvenile Court. **On May 31, 2022, the court found her legal guardian, Sherrian Bloomquist, neglected the near fatality victim.** The Department is providing supportive services to the children and will continue to assess for other services to be provided to the family.

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 fatality and near fatality cases with prior DCS involvement, which are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and supports 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, 2023.