

Summary Report	Near Fatality	01/15/2025
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 10/17/23 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: 14-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 March 2, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect to a 14-year-old female. There were additional allegations regarding the fatality of a sibling, Kenneth Jones. The 14-year-old female was transported to the hospital, where she was determined to be in serious condition with multiple injuries. On March 7, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County juvenile court. On August 2, 2023, the court found that the parents, Amberleah Valentine and Jon Imes, neglected and/or failed to protect the near fatality victim and their sibling from abuse. **On November 21, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the child by other adult, Shioban Kennedy, who was present when the physical abuse to the children occurred. On December 18, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by other adult, Richard Pounds.**

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 parents **or Richard Pounds** with DCS **as an alleged perpetrator.**

DCS received the following prior report involving Shioban Kennedy:

On September 22, 2014, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Shioban Kennedy. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The case was closed on June 3, 2015.

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 in licensed foster care after her release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. On August 2, 2023, the court found that the parents, Amberleah Valentine and Jon Imes, neglected and/or failed to protect the child and her sibling from abuse. On November 21, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the child by other adult, Shioban Kennedy, who was present when the physical abuse to the children occurred. On December 18, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by other adult, Richard Pounds. Parental rights to the near fatality victim have been terminated. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding the family.

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 Mohave County Sheriff's Office. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a foster home. The

Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court. On August 2, 2023, the court found that the parents, Amberleah Valentine and Jon Imes, neglected and/or failed to protect the child and her sibling from abuse. **On November 21, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the child by other adult, Shioban Kennedy, who was present when the physical abuse to the children occurred. On December 18, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by other adult, Richard Pounds.** Parental rights to the near fatality victim have been terminated. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding 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, 2025.**