



Summary Report	Near Fatality	06/13/2022
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1. Victim: 9-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 July 7, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition and had tested positive for fentanyl. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on July 13, 2021. On October 18, 2021, the court found the mother, Rae Eberts, neglected the child by allowing an active drug user in her home which resulted in the child ingesting fentanyl.

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:

DCS received the following prior reports involving Rae Eberts and/or the child's father in the preceding five years:

On October 12, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his sibling by their mother, Rae Eberts, and their father. The children were removed and a dependency petition was filed. The allegations were substantiated and the Department provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the mother and the case was closed on December 5, 2019.

On December 16, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

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 children being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on July 13, 2021, and is providing services to the family. On October 18, 2021, the court found the mother, Rae Eberts, neglected the child by allowing an active drug user in her home which resulted in the child ingesting fentanyl. 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 Phoenix Police Department. The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the children being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on July 13, 2021, and is providing services to the family. On October 18, 2021, the court found the mother, Rae Eberts, neglected the child by allowing an active drug user in her home which resulted in the child ingesting fentanyl. 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 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



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is December 1, 2022.

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>.