



Summary Report	Near Fatality	12/21/2022
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1. Victim: 5-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 November 19, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 15-year-old male and 5-year-old female who had been shot by their father, Derek Tighe. They were transported to the hospital and determined to be in critical condition. The investigation determined the father, Derek Tighe, shot the children and then committed suicide.

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:

Although no services were being provided prior to the November 19, 2022 near fatality report, the family was being investigated for an open report from February 20, 2022. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The investigation was pending when the report of the near fatality incident was received.

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?

The children, their father, Derek Tighe, and their mother were subjects of the February 20, 2022 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 received the following prior report involving Derek Tighe and the near fatality victims:

On February 20, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse of the children by their father, Derek Tighe and their mother. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred. Ultimately, the allegations regarding the mother were unsubstantiated and the allegations regarding the father, Derek Tighe, were proposed to substantiate-perpetrator deceased. The family was offered services.

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 involving the near fatality incident was investigated and it was determined the father, Derek Tighe, shot the children and then committed suicide. Upon release from the hospital, the children were assessed as safe with their mother. The family was offered services. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received involving 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 Chandler Police Department. It was determined the father, Derek Tighe, shot the children and then committed suicide. Upon release from the hospital, the children were assessed as safe with their mother. The family was offered services. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received involving 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 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, 2023.

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>.