



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Michael Wisehart, Interim Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Summary Report	Near Fatality	04/05/2023
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1. 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 1, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. The child tested positive for Fentanyl. No explanations were given on how the child got access to Fentanyl. On June 4, 2021, the Department filed a dependency petition on behalf of the child with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. On August 25, 2021, the Court found that the child was dependent as to the father, Vincent Winston, based on "the father's failure to maintain a safe and appropriate home environment to protect the child from drugs."

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:

The father, Vincent Winston, and the mother were involved in the following reports in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

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On May 4, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by the father, Vincent Winston, and the mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided child care and access to community resources.

On June 19, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by their mother. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when the next report was received.

On August 3, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their siblings by their mother. There was also an allegation of physical abuse to the near fatality victim by an unknown perpetrator. The allegations of neglect were substantiated and resulted in the removal of all of the children from the home. Following an assessment of child safety, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court against both of the near fatality victim's parents. The father, Vincent Winston, successfully completed services and the near fatality victim was returned home in November 2018. The siblings were returned home to their father in September 2019.

On March 8, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the father, Vincent Winston. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The father declined voluntary in-home services offered by the Department and the case was closed.

On May 10, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim's siblings by the mother and another adult. The outcome of the investigation resulted in the removal of the siblings from the other adult's home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The mother, the other adult, and siblings are currently receiving services from the Department.

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 foster care after his release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and is providing services to the family. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Vincent Winston has been substantiated.

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

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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 Mesa Police Department. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and substantiated the allegations as to Vincent Winston. Services are being provided. There were no subsequent reports received involving Vincent Winston.

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.