



Summary Report	Near Fatality	04/15/2024
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1. Victim: 16-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 November 5, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 16-year-old male who was found unresponsive at home and was transported to the hospital. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition. On November 16, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court. On November 21, 2023, the court found that the mother, Tamara Priddy, 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:

The child's mother, Tamara Priddy, and his father, were involved in the following reports in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

On June 17, 2019, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the near fatality victim's father and mother, Tamara Priddy. There were additional allegations of physical and emotional abuse by the father to the sibling. The allegations of physical and emotional abuse were unsubstantiated. The

allegations of neglect by the father and mother, Tamara Priddy, were substantiated. The family declined services offered by the Department and the case was closed on October 4, 2019.

On February 7, 2020, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their father, and neglect by their mother, Tamara Priddy. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family declined services offered by the Department and the case was closed on May 15, 2020.

On March 5, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Tamara Priddy. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate Mrs. Priddy without success. The case was closed as unable to locate on August 14, 2023.

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 and their sibling being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. On November 21, 2023, the court found that the mother, Tamara Priddy, neglected the near fatality victim. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were 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 Payson Police Department. Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and their sibling were removed and placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court. On November 21, 2023, the court found that the mother, Tamara Priddy, neglected the near fatality victim. Services are being provided by the Department. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were 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, 2024.