

Summary Report	Near Fatality	01/14/2025
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1. Victim: 4-month-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 July 13, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-month-old child that was found unresponsive at home. She was transported to the hospital and determined to be in critical condition due to an unsafe sleeping environment. On August 1, 2024, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and her siblings by her mother and father, Tamar Bradley. On September 23, 2024, the father, Tamar Bradley, pleaded no contest to the dependency petition.

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 the mother, Tamar Bradley and the near fatality victim in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

On January 31, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the near fatality victim's mother. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The family was referred to community resources and the case was closed.

On October 29, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and Tamar Bradley. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On February 23, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and father, Tamar Bradley. The Department filed an in-home dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court. The family participated in services and the dependency was dismissed in April 2022. The allegations of neglect were substantiated.

On July 24, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to children by their mother and father, Tamar Bradley. The in-home dependency matter was still ongoing at the time of this report. The allegations of neglect were substantiated and the physical abuse allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was referred for services during the dependency matter which was ultimately dismissed in April of 2022.

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 a licensed DDD foster home after her release from the hospital. The other children in the home were ultimately placed together with an unlicensed kinship caregiver. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court and is providing services to the family

A subsequent report involving the father and a sibling was received on September 20, 2024, regarding allegations of abuse that occurred prior to the child coming into care. The allegations were unsubstantiated.

An additional subsequent report was received alleging abuse by father to a sibling on December 8, 2024. The allegation has been unsubstantiated and the dependency matter is still ongoing.

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. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a licensed DDD foster home. The other children in the home were ultimately placed together with an unlicensed kinship caregiver. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court and is providing services to the family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice safe sleep. For additional information please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/Services/Safe-Sleep>.

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.