

Summary Report	Near Fatality	07/09/2024
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1. Victim: 2-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 June 4, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old female who was transported to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to exposure to substances. On June 14, 2024, the child's mother, Christina Culp, was indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury for child abuse due to placing the child in a situation where her health was endangered by exposing the child to fentanyl and/or methamphetamine.

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 parents were involved in the following previous reports:

On December 12, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Christina Culp. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The family participated in services offered by the Department and the case was closed on May 21, 2019.

On February 16, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Christina Culp, and their father. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the removal of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The children were reunified with their parents and the dependency was dismissed on June 21, 2023.

On January 21, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Christina Culp, and their father. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on February 2, 2024.

On February 20, 2024, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Christina Culp. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on April 24, 2024.

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 resulted in the child's mother, Christina Culp, being indicted for child abuse. Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and a sibling were removed from the home and placed with relatives. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and services are being provided to the family. 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 Pima County Sheriff's Office. Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and a sibling were removed from the home and placed with relatives. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and services are being provided to the family. 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.