



Summary Report	Near Fatality	8/17/17
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 12/1/16 are displayed below in red.

1. **Victim:** 5-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 March 15, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-month-old baby who had been taken to the hospital after having seizures at home. The baby was found to be in critical condition with injuries including an acute subdural hematoma on her head, bleeding in the brain, retinal hemorrhages in both eyes, and four fractured ribs approximately two weeks old. The allegation of neglect pertaining to the mother, Amber Rawls, was substantiated for inflicting abuse and/or allowing the child to be abused as well as for neglecting the child by failing to protect. **The mother's boyfriend, Dannum Neller, was also residing in the home where the near fatality occurred. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect pertaining Dannum Neller for inflicting abuse and/or allowing the child to be abused.**

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:**

No services were 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, Amber Rawls, was involved in the following prior report:

On February 10, 2016, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother, Amber Rawls. The investigation assessed the baby as safe with her mother and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The mother declined voluntary in-home services offered by the Department and the case was closed.

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 licensed foster care after her release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Apache County Superior Court and is providing services **to support the child**. The allegations of neglect pertaining to Amber Rawls **and Dannum Neller** have been substantiated.

The investigation also resulted in a separate report regarding another child who resided part time in the home. That investigation assessed the child as safe with the other parent.

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 Apache County Sheriff's Office. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a foster home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Apache County Superior Court and substantiated the allegations as to Amber Rawls. **The allegations as to Dannum Neller were also substantiated.** Services are being provided **to support the child**. The Department also investigated the report regarding another child who lived in the home part time. That child was assessed as safe with the other parent. No subsequent reports have been received.

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 of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was 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, 2017.

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>.



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