

Summary Report	Near Fatality	03/15/2023
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1. Victim: One-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 February 4, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year-old male who had been taken to the hospital in serious condition. Upon examination, the child had severe hypotonia and respiratory failure. The parents had not taken the child to medical appointments and were not following up on his medical needs. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court on April 13, 2021. On July 15, 2021, the parents, John Jones and Nicole Sellers, did not contest the allegations and the Court granted the dependency petition. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the parents.

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:

Although no services were being provided to the family, the case was open with in-home staff when the near fatality report was received on February 4, 2021. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on January 24, 2021.

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 report involving John Jones, Nicole Sellers, and the near fatality victim:

On September 23, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by his parents, John Jones and Nicole Sellers. The allegations were substantiated as to both parents. The case was transferred to in-home staff where the case remained open when the near fatality report was received on February 4, 2021.

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 sibling being placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court on April 13, 2021, and provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the parents and the case was closed on February 1, 2022. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 Mohave County Sheriff's Office. The sibling was placed in foster care while the near fatality victim remained in the hospital. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court on April 13, 2021. On July 15, 2021, the parents, John Jones and Nicole Sellers, did not contest the allegations and the Court granted the dependency petition. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the parents. The Department provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the parents and the case was closed on February 1, 2022. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 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.

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 report was released December 1, 2021.