

Information for Release

1/30/2014

Date of the notification to CPS: 5/31/2013

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 6/1/2013

Child's name: Collin Smith

Age at time of incident: 2 Years

Perpetrator(s): Amberlee Query, James Sunderland

Age: 28, 24

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and alleged perpetrator(s) were living in San Tan Valley, Arizona.

A. Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On May 31, 2013, Collin Smith arrived at the hospital after becoming unresponsive at home while in the care of his mother's boyfriend, James Sunderland. He presented with significant bruising to his body and a large left subdural hematoma. Collin's mother, Amberlee Query, reported that he had fallen approximately ten feet onto some rocks on a steep jeep trail about three or four days prior and she did not take him to the hospital. Collin's injuries included significant bruising to the forehead extending back into the hairline, two black eyes, bruising to his right cheek and very extensive bruising to his left cheek. It was noted that the head trauma was likely an abusive head trauma with bruises on the cheeks, ears and back, consistent with facial slaps. Patterned bruises to the buttocks were also observed and were not consistent with falling forward.

Collin was taken off life support and died on June 1, 2013. An autopsy was performed by the Maricopa Medical Examiner's Office and determined the cause of death as multiple blunt force trauma and the manner of death as homicide. Amberlee Query and James Sunderland have been charged with child abuse and first-degree murder.

B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian* :

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) has received one prior report alleging abuse or neglect of Collin Smith by Amberlee Query.

On January 26, 2013, a report was made regarding Collin being found sitting alone in a neighbor's car at 8:40am. Law enforcement was called and a door-to-door search was conducted until Collin's mother, Amberlee Query and her live-in boyfriend were located. Both were unaware that Collin was missing and the door to the residence was unlocked and swung open when deputies knocked. Ms. Query stated she always locks the door to the apartment at night and Collin has likely figured out how to unlock and open the door. Ms. Query stated that Collin has done this sort of thing before. He has gotten out of the apartment and managed to get inside of a neighbor's apartment. At his daycare, Collin has managed to get out of the building and into the daycare manager's car. Deputies found nothing in

the home or the appearance of Ms. Query, her boyfriend or Collin to give cause for concern.

1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) is conducting a joint investigation with the Pinal County Sheriff's Office.

2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

There were no other children in the home.

3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

No services were provided.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.