

Information for Release

5/1/2013

**Date of the notification to CPS:** 9/23/2012

**Fatality**

**The date the child suffered the fatality:** 9/23/2012

**Child's name:** Dakota Sanders

**Age at time of incident:** 20 Months

**Perpetrator(s):**

Joy Norris, age 34

Theodore Sanders, III, age, 35

**Age:** 34, 35

**City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s):** The child and the alleged perpetrators were living in Bullhead City, Arizona.

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

On September, 23, 2012, Joy Norris and Theodore Sanders, III, neglected Dakota Sanders when they left him unattended with access to their back yard pool which resulted in the child's death by drowning.

**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 no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Dakota Sanders by Joy Norris and Theodore Sanders, III.

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

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) completed a thorough investigation of the allegations.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings remained in the home with the parents.

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

Services offered to the family were through WestCare.

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\*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).