

Information for Release		1/6/2014
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Date of the notification to CPS: 1/2/2014

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 12/31/2013

Child's name: David Sherrill

Age at time of incident: 13 Years

Perpetrator(s): Gary Sherrill

Age: 51

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 Phoenix, Arizona.

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

On December 31, 2013, the Phoenix Police Department responded to a request for a welfare check on 13-year-old David Sherrill who was visiting with his father, Gary Sherrill. Police found David to be deceased upon arrival and his father admitted to killing him with an ax. Gary Sherrill was arrested on a charge of 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 no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of David Sherrill by Gary Sherrill.

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 Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children were determined to be safe with the mother.

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

Services will be determined following the outcome of the investigation.

*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).