



Preliminary Report	Fatality	1/7/2016
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- 1. Victim:** Carter Lott – 14 month old– male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 08/22/15
- 3. Date of fatality:** 08/28/15
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 11/27/15
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Kristi Heffelfinger – age 23 – El Mirage, AZ

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

On August 22, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding emergency services responding to a possible drowning of a child. The child was taken to the hospital where he later died. The child was in the care of his mother at the time of the drowning. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to the child's mother, Kristi Heffelfinger, as she did not provide adequate supervision to Carter when he gained access to the pool, fell in, and drowned.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS has received the following prior report involving the mother Kristi Heffelfinger:

On September 12, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to the fatality victim's sibling by the mother, Kristi Heffelfinger. The Department made multiple attempts to locate the family. The family was unable to be located and the case was closed.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Peoria Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings in the home were assessed as being safe. It was determined that the family was not in need of additional services or interventions through the Department.

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

The mother reported the family will access community resources if needed. No services were provided by the Department.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.