



Preliminary Report	Fatality	11/24/15
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1. Victim: Helious Griffith – 5-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 11/7/15

3. Date of fatality: 11/7/15

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 11/7/15

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:

Lola Tami Griffith – age 27 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On November 7, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Helious Griffith who was killed by his mother in a murder-suicide while admitted to Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa, AZ. Lola Tami Griffith died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Helious had been hospitalized at the center for approximately one week.

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 reports involving Helious and Lola Griffith:

On August 24, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Helious by Lola Griffith due to concerns regarding his health. An investigation was initiated and was in progress when another report was received. The allegation was later unsubstantiated.

On November 28, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Helious by Lola Griffith due to concerns regarding his weight. The investigation was completed and assessed Helious as being safe in the care of his mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On April 22, 2012, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Helious by Lola Griffith due to him reportedly having a dislocated shoulder. The investigation was completed and assessed Helious as being safe in the care of his mother. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On September 24, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Helious by Lola Griffith due to concern regarding the condition of the home. An investigation was initiated and the case remained open when the fatality occurred.

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

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

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

There were no other children in the home.



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

No services are being 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.

** 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.