



Summary Report	Child Fatality	8/21/15
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1. Victim: Ralph Holley – 15 years old

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On May 20, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the 8/16/13 death of Ralph Holley. It was reported that the fatality occurred when Ralph's stepmother, Tammy Reyes, allowed him to operate a vehicle although he was unlicensed. Ralph lost control of the vehicle and was killed as a result.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

Although no services were being provided prior to the May 20, 2014 fatality report, Tammy Reyes was being investigated by the Department for a report dated May 9, 2013. The report was assigned for investigation on May 16, 2013 and responded to on June 6, 2013.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

Tammy Reyes was the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

Tammy Reyes was involved in the following reports:

On March 3, 2010, a report was received alleging physical abuse by Tammy Reyes to her biological child. The investigation found the child to be safe and the case was closed on April 7, 2011 with no services provided.

On May 9, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect by Tammy Reyes to her biological child. It was reported that Ms. Reyes was seen driving erratically with the child in the car. An investigation was initiated and the case was open when the fatality report was received. The allegations in this report have now been unsubstantiated.

The child's parents were involved in the following report:

On March 19, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to Ralph and his siblings by their parents. The report noted a private dependency petition had been filed with the Maricopa



County Juvenile Court. The DCS investigation found no grounds for the petition and determined the children were safe in the care of their father. The petition was dismissed and the family was offered voluntary in-home services through the Department. The family declined to engage in services and the case was closed with the allegations unsubstantiated on June 26, 2012

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The investigation of the fatality report determined that the other child in the home was safe. The allegations of neglect to that child and Ralph Holley by Tammy Reyes were substantiated. The case involving the other child was closed on March 13, 2015. The family was offered services but declined them. The case regarding the victim of the fatality remained open and a subsequent report alleging neglect to a sibling was received on August 5, 2014. The allegation in that report was substantiated as to the father and the family was provided with services.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child:

N/A

5. Actions taken by the department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

A Fatality/Near Fatality Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviewed the case and determined the report from May 9, 2013 was not assigned for investigation until May 16, 2013 due to staff shortage at the time. One of the Department's 2016 Strategic Plan goals is to create manageable workloads for case managers. When the investigation into the fatality was conducted, it was done in accordance with DCS policy and procedures. The family was offered available services, but declined. No changes to policy or practice were recommended as a result of the review.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>