



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>4/6/16</b>
-----------------------	-----------------	---------------

**1. Victim:** Terrence Neal –14-month-old male

**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 June 30, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a call made to 911 that a child was found unresponsive. The child was taken to a nearby hospital where he died. There was unexplained bruising on the child's abdomen. The Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office determined that the cause of death was due to blunt force torso trauma. The Department determined Terrence Neal was alone with Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks for a portion of the day when the injuries occurred.

**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:**

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

**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?**

No.

**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:**

There has been no prior involvement of the child's parents and/or Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks with DCS.

**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 by the Department of Child Safety determined Terrence Neal was alone with Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks for a portion of the day when the injuries occurred. Terrence's sibling was initially assessed as safe with the mother with a safety plan in place. The sibling was later removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The sibling has since been placed back in the home with the parents and the Department continues to provide in-home services to the family.



The DCS investigation of the fatality report also resulted in a separate report being made on July 1, 2015 regarding Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks and his biological child and the child's two siblings. The children were initially assessed as safe with their mother with a safety plan in place. The children were later removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The children have since been placed back in the home with the mother with another safety plan in place.

No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

**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:**

The Department is conducting a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department. The investigation of the fatality report by the Department of Child Safety determined Terrence Neal was alone with Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks for a portion of the day when the injuries occurred. The investigation of the fatality report resulted in Terrence's sibling being considered safe with the mother with a safety plan in place. However, the Department was concerned with the mother not following the agreed upon safety plan and the sibling was removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The sibling has since been placed back in the home with the parents and in-home services continue to be provided to the family.

The DCS investigation of the fatality report resulted in a separate DCS report made on July 1, 2015 regarding Rodrigues Jermaine Brooks and his biological child and the child's two siblings. The investigation of the report resulted in the children being considered safe with their mother with a safety plan in place. However, the Department later learned that the mother was not following the agreed upon safety plan and the children were removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The children have been placed back in the home with the mother with another safety plan in place.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with



## *Arizona Department of Child Safety*

**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is September 1, 2016.

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>.