



Summary Report	Fatality	1/28/16
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1. Victim: Trent McCluskey – 3-year-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 occurred:

On August 6, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Cory Williams calling 911 because he found Trent McCluskey unresponsive. Trent was taken to a nearby hospital where he was unresponsive with agonal breathing. Trent had a CAT scan completed and was found to have a subdural bleed and a basilar skull fracture. In addition, Trent had bruising to the right and left frontal of his forehead, around both eyes and petechial on the front of his neck. Trent was in the care of Cory Williams at the time the injuries occurred. Trent ultimately died from his injuries. Cory Williams has since been arrested on felony charges of manslaughter and child abuse. Trent's mother, Tiffany Stotser, was arrested on a felony charge of child abuse.

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 to the family prior to the August 6, 2015 fatality report, the family was being investigated for an open report from November 29, 2014. The Department made multiple attempts to make contact with the family with the last attempt being on July 22, 2015. The Department was unable to make contact with the family prior to the fatality report. The November 29, 2014 DCS investigation was completed and the allegations were ultimately unsubstantiated.

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?

Although Trent was not reported to be a victim of abuse or neglect for the November 29, 2014 report, it did involve his mother, Tiffany Stotser, and siblings in the home.

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:

The following reports involve Trent's mother, Tiffany Stotser, and/or his father:

On January 22, 2010, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to Trent's sibling by the sibling's father and neglect by the mother, Tiffany Stotser. The investigation assessed the children to be safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on community resources and the case was closed.

On August 3, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Trent's sibling by the mother, Tiffany Stotser and physical abuse by mother's boyfriend, Trent's father. Trent was not listed as a victim



in this report. The investigation assessed the children as safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. Services were offered to the family and the case was closed.

On November 29, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Trent's sibling by the mother, Tiffany Stotser. The Department made multiple attempts to make contact with the family with the last attempt being on July 22, 2015. The Department was unable to make contact with the family prior to the fatality report. The investigation was ultimately completed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

There is no prior history DCS history regarding Cory Williams.

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 resulted in the child's mother, Tiffany Stotser, being arrested and indicted on felony child abuse charges. The investigation also resulted in the mother's boyfriend, Cory Williams, being arrested and indicted on manslaughter and child abuse charges. Following an assessment of child safety a sibling was originally placed with a relative and now resides with her father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and services are being provided to the family.

The August 6, 2015 DCS investigation resulted in a subsequent report being made on August 7, 2015 regarding Cory Williams and his biological child. The child was determined to be safe in the care of the child's mother. The Department unsubstantiated the allegation and the case was closed.

On December 9, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to the fatality victim's sibling by the child's father and physical abuse by father's girlfriend. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The Department continues to provide services to the family.

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 law enforcement investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's mother, Tiffany Stotser, being arrested and indicted on felony child abuse charges. The law enforcement investigation also resulted in the mother's boyfriend, Cory Williams, being arrested and indicted on manslaughter and child abuse charges. Following an assessment of child safety a sibling was placed with a relative. The sibling is now residing with her father. The DCS filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and services are being provided to the family.

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 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, which 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>
<https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>.