



Summary Report	Child Fatality	8/20/15
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1. Victim: Parker Hargis – 30-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 at the time of the fatality.

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 18, 2014 fatality, the family was being investigated for a report dated December 21, 2013. The last date of contact the Department of Child Safety had with the family was on March 13, 2014.

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 Parker was not reported to be a victim of abuse or neglect for the December 21, 2013 report, it did involve his mother, Jody Hargis, and a sibling 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:

On December 21, 2013, a report was received alleging physical abuse by the mother, Jody Hargis, to a sibling. An investigation was initiated but not completed. The case was later identified as an "inactive case" meaning there had been no documentation entered for 60 days or more. The report was then fully investigated concurrently with the August 18, 2014 report. It was determined at that time that there was no evidence to support the allegation.

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 August 18, 2014 fatality report determined that the child's mother, Jody Hargis, neglected Parker by failing to provide adequate supervision when he accessed the family's pool through an unsecured door and gate. The family ensured the siblings' safety by putting a lock on the pool fence as well as the backyard gate. The Department was providing services to the family when a subsequent report was received on September 12, 2014 alleging neglect to two siblings by the parents. The family ultimately completed in-home services successfully and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was closed on March 6, 2015 and no further 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:

A Fatality/Near Fatality Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviewed the case and determined that the investigations conducted by the Department of Child Safety regarding the August 18, 2014 and September 12, 2014 reports were done in accordance with policy and procedure. No changes to policy or practice were recommended as a result of the review.

The Department of Child Safety report received on December 21, 2013 initiated an investigation but was not complete. The case was later identified as an "inactive case" meaning there had been no documentation entered for 60 days or more. The report was then fully investigated concurrently with the August 18, 2014 report. It was determined that the 2013 report was investigated appropriately at that time.

One of the Department's 2016 Strategic Plan Goals is to improve performance and quality of service through employee retention. An objective of this goal is to reduce the number of inactive cases.

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>

The Department reminds all caregivers to always watch children around water and follow the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Pool Safety Recommendations.

For more information, please visit the ADHS website at:

http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/pool_rules.htm