

Information for Release		12/2/2011
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Date of the notification to CPS: 5/22/2011

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 5/21/2011

Child's name: Gecari Carroll

Age at time of incident: 5 Years

Perpetrator(s): Stephanie Puckett

Age: 29

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): The child and the alleged perpetrator were residing in Phoenix at the time of the incident.

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

On May 21, 2011, Gecari Carroll was found deceased at the bottom of the swimming pool at a relative's apartment complex. Stephanie Puckett contacted the Phoenix Police and listed a missing person's report. After four hours of searching the neighborhood, Gecari was found in the complex swimming pool. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Stephanie Puckett failed to properly supervise her child, which resulted in his death.

B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian* :

CPS has received two prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Gecari Carrol by Stephanie Puckett.

On November 3, 2010, a report was received alleging neglect by Stephanie Puckett of Gecari Carrol. The report alleged that the child was knocking on neighbors doors and asking for food. The report also alleged that Stephanie would go clubbing on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and sometimes Wednesdays and leave the child with his siblings. The report was investigated and the child was privately interviewed and denied the allegations. The findings were unsubstantiated. Services were not provided.

On May 27, 2010, a report was received alleging Stephanie Puckett's inability to properly care for her children. The report alleged that Stephanie would leave the children in the care of her eldest child several times a week when she would go out to clubs and be gone from approximately 9 or 10 pm.m until 4 or 5 a.m. The report also contained concerns about the condition of the home: there were piles of clothing and garbage throughout the home and the home was infested with roaches. The report was investigated, the child was privately interviewed and denied the allegations. The findings were unsubstantiated. Services were not provided.

1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

CPS is jointly investigating the case with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety for the other children, they have been placed in licensed foster homes.

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

A determination of whether services are warranted will occur at the conclusion of the investigation.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.