

Information for Release		10/24/2011
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Date of the notification to CPS: 11/22/2009

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 11/22/2009

Child's name: Jenesis Pearson

Age at time of incident: 2 Months

Perpetrator(s): Tikquentia Memmezzwattay, 20; Jermaine Pearson, 25.

Age: See above

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): Both child and the alleged perpetrator(s) were residing in Tempe 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 Nov. 21, 2009, the family had been running errands all day and mother, Tikquentia, reported that she did not feed Jenesis between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. because she did not have a way to warm up a bottle and she knew Jenesis would not take the bottle if it was cold. On Nov. 22, 2009, Jenesis was found unresponsive by the parents. Paramedics were called and Jenesis was pronounced dead at the scene. Tikquentia Memmezzwattay and Jermaine Pearson neglected their child, Jenesis Pearson, when they failed to provide him with any food or liquid for up to eight hours, which resulted in the child's death due to dehydration and malnutrition.

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 had one prior report alleging abuse or neglect of Jenesis Pearson by Tikquentia Memmezzwattay. On Nov. 3, 2009, a report was received against Tikquentia Memmezzwattay when she delayed picking Jenesis up from the hospital when he was ready to be discharged. Tikquentia additionally failed to follow up with the pediatrician's orders for Jenesis when he was discharged. The worker went and spoke to Tikquentia about the necessity of having her newborn seen, and gave her two days to have Jenesis seen by the pediatrician. Tikquentia followed through with having Jenesis seen, and no further action was needed. The child had not suffered by not seeing the pediatrician in the time allotted and mother had addressed the safety threat and the findings were unsubstantiated. This report was still being investigated when the report of Jenesis' death was received.

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

CPS conducted a joint investigation with the Tempe Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed with relatives.

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

Intensive family preservation services, including parenting skills, were provided to the family. The case was closed in June 2011.

*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.