

Information for Release		7/20/2012
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Date of the notification to CPS: 11/15/2011

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 11/17/2011

Child's name: Meghann Mitchell

Age at time of incident: 7 Months

Perpetrator(s): William Blankenburg

Age: 24

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and perpetrator were living in Benson, Arizona.

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

On or about November 15, 2011, Meghann was hospitalized. At the time she was unresponsive and was observed to have sustained a human bite mark on her forearm, and bruising on her chest, outer ear, shoulder and leg. She was diagnosed with global ischemia anoxic brain injury, cerebral edema, unequal pupils, and suspected non-accidental trauma. She was pronounced deceased as of 11-17-11.

On 7-11-12, William Blankenburg was arrested for 1st degree murder and child abuse.

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 no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Meghann Mitchell by William Blankenburg.

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

CPS is conducting a joint investigation with Pima County Sheriff's Office.

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

At the time of the report there were no other children in the home.

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

CPS is not providing services to William Blankenburg.

*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).

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.