



Information for Release		10/24/2014
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Date of the notification to DCS: 10/8/2014

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 10/8/2014

Child's name: Natalyah Bennett

Age at time of incident: 6 weeks

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Duryea Bennett – age 39

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Phoenix, AZ

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

On October 8, 2014, 6-week-old Natalyah Bennett was transported to the hospital and pronounced dead after being at home in the care of her father, Duryea Bennett. Natalyah's injuries were inconsistent with the explanation provided and she had extensive bruising and bite marks on her body. Duryea Bennett has been charged with first degree murder and child abuse.

Whether DCS 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*:

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglect involving Natalyah and Duryea Bennett.

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

The Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, is conducting a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children remained in the home with the mother.

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

Services will be determined pending the outcome 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).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Charles Flanagan
Director

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.