



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>1/7/16</b>
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**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 2-month-old female child

**2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the near fatality?**

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On March 12, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-month-old baby girl who was admitted to the hospital on March 11, 2015 in critical condition. Further examination found her to have extensive brain damage including a subdural hematoma and a subarachnoid bleed. The Department's investigation determined that the child's parents, Angel Leija and Tyler Dicken, either physically abused the baby or failed to protect her from abuse.

**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 prior to the March 12, 2015 report, the family did have an open case from a report dated August 21, 2014. The investigation of that report assessed the children assessed as safe in the home. However, the case remained open pending completion of all required documentation. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on February 21, 2015.

**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 the child was not reported to be a victim of abuse or neglect for the August 21, 2014 report, it did involve the child's siblings, and parents, Angel Leija and Tyler Dickens.

**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:**

The child's parents, Angel Leija and Tyler Dicken, were involved in the following:

On August 21, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to the siblings of the near fatality victim by the parents, Angel Leija and Tyler Dicken. The report alleged that the parents were abusing illegal substances and not regularly feeding the children. The investigation assessed the children to be safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. However, the case remained open pending completion of all required documentation.

**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 near fatality:**



The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the removal of all of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court and services are being provided to the family. No subsequent 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:**

The Department conducted an investigation resulting in the removal of the children from the home. A dependency petition was filed with the Mohave County Superior Court and the Department is providing services to the family.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is September 1, 2016.

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>