



Summary Report	Near Fatality	4/5/16
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 2-year-old male

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 his home when the following incident occurred:

On November 29, 2015 the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a two-year-old male who was taken to the hospital in critical condition and being found unresponsive at home. Further examination determined the child had a traumatic brain injury that was considered to be suspicious. On December 2, 2015, the mother's boyfriend, Peter Schmidtfranz, was arrested for child 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 November 29, 2015 report, the family was being investigated for an open report from November 23, 2015. The last date of contact with the child was on November 23, 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?

The child and his mother were subjects of the November 23, 2015 report.

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:

DCS has received the following prior report involving the near fatality victim:

On November 23, 2015, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child by his mother. The report noted that the child had been observed to have a black eye on November 17, 2015 and an injury to his upper lip and bruise on his right thigh on November 22, 2015. An investigation was initiated by DCS and the Pima County Sheriff's Department and was still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred. It was later determined that the mother's boyfriend, Peter Schmidtfranz, was living in the home at the time of the alleged abuse and he is also considered a suspect. The investigation of this report and the near fatality report is ongoing.

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 mother's boyfriend, Peter Schmidtfranz, being arrested for child abuse. Upon release from the hospital, the child was assessed as safe with his other parent. The Department's investigation continues and no subsequent reports 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 is conducting a joint investigation with the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Peter Schmidtfranz has been charged with child abuse. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe with the other parent. The Department's investigation is ongoing at this time.

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>.