



Information for Release	AMENDED	2/9/2015
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Date of the notification to DCS: 9/7/2014

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 9/7/2014

Child's name: Patrick Mathews

Age at time of incident: 12 years old

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Susan Mathews – age 56

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

Tucson, AZ

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

On September 7, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report stating that Patrick Mathews, a 12-year-old child with disabilities, had died from injuries sustained in a fire started by a sibling at the family's home. The investigation found that the children's mother, Susan Mathews, was aware of the risks of injury to Patrick due to the sibling's history of playing with matches and starting fires. It was determined that Ms. Mathews' failure to properly supervise Patrick and the sibling caused an unreasonable risk of harm to Patrick that resulted in his death. **On January 29, 2015, Susan Mathews was charged with negligent homicide.**

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 four prior reports alleging neglect to Patrick Mathews by Susan Mathews:

On May 12, 2011, a report was received with allegations of neglect to the children in Susan Mathews' home including concerns about her ability to provide adequate clothing for Patrick. This report was being investigated when the next report was received.

On June 8, 2011, a report was received with allegations of neglect to the children in Susan Mathews' home. The investigation of this report and the previous report found evidence to support neglect to Patrick and he was removed from the home. A dependency was filed and numerous services were put in place to support the family. Patrick was eventually returned home and the dependency remained open while services continued. The allegations of neglect from both of these reports were substantiated.

On June 10, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Patrick due to concerns over the condition of the home. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the dependency remained open with services being provided.

On July 28, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Patrick due to concerns for his hygiene and Susan Mathews' ability to adequately meet his basic needs. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The dependency remained open with services being provided when the current incident occurred.



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

The Department of Child Safety conducted a joint investigation with the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the sibling was removed and placed in foster care.

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

The Department is providing services to the family.

*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.

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.