

Information for Release

5/28/2013

Date of the notification to CPS: 8/7/2011

Near Fatality

The date the child suffered the near fatality: 8/7/2011

Child's name: Shia

Age at time of incident: 7 Years

Perpetrator(s): Sunny James

Age: 27

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

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

On or about August 7, 2011, Sunny James neglected Shia, age 7, when she operated a vehicle under the influence of alcohol with the child as a passenger, resulting in a car accident that left her child in critical condition. The child sustained multiple injuries to several different planes of her body and numerous injuries to her face and thereby placed the child at unreasonable risk of death.

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* :

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) has not received any prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Shia by Sunny James.

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

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) investigated the allegations through a joint investigation with the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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

Shia was discharged from the hospital and placed with relatives. 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:

Case management services were provided.

*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.