

Summary Report	Fatality	04/18/2024
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1. Victim: Jody Jackson – 1-year-old female

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

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

On January 29, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 1-year-old Jody Jackson, who was found unresponsive by her mother. The mother contacted emergency services who responded to the home and pronounced Jody deceased. Jody's post mortem toxicology results returned positive for fentanyl. On February 6, 2024, the mother, Natalie Tate, was indicted on child abuse charges.

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:

There were no services being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

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?

No.

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 mother, Natalie Tate, was involved in the following prior reports in the five years preceding the fatality incident:

On August 29, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Natalie Tate. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation of neglect. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on December 11, 2020.

On June 8, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to Jody by her mother, Natalie Tate. The allegations were substantiated. The investigation assessed Jody and a sibling as safe with their mother with a safety plan in place. The family was referred for services but did not engage in the services. The case was closed on May 17, 2023.

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 fatality:

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's sibling being removed and placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior court and is providing services supportive services to the sibling and will continue to assess for other services to be provided to the family. On February 6, 2024, the mother, Natalie Tate, was indicted on child abuse charges. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

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 a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department. Following an assessment of child safety, the child's sibling was been removed and placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior court and is providing services supportive services to the sibling and will continue to assess for other services to be provided to the family. On February 6, 2024, the mother, Natalie Tate, was indicted on child abuse charges. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding 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 fatality and near fatality cases with prior DCS involvement, which are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and supports the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

Cases are 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 uses 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 are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2024.