

Preliminary Report	Fatality	09/10/2025
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- 1. Victim:** Parker Scholtes – 2-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 07/09/2024
- 3. Date of fatality:** 07/09/2024
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 09/03/2025
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Marana, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Christopher Scholtes – age 37 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On July 9, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Parker Scholtes, who was found unresponsive after her father left the child sleeping in a vehicle in the family’s driveway. Parker was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. On August 1, 2024, the father, Christopher Scholtes, was indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury on charges of first-degree murder and child abuse in relation to Parker’s death. On August 20, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect to Parker by the father, Christopher Scholtes.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS received the following prior reports involving Christopher Scholtes:

On June 28, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On January 23, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On September 26, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect, physical abuse, and emotional abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes, and neglect to the child by their stepmother. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On February 11, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On December 12, 2019, a report was received alleging emotional abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On April 21, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes, and their stepmother. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On September 15, 2020, a report was received alleging emotional abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes, and their stepmother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. This investigation was still in progress when the next report was received.

On November 30, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect and emotional abuse to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes, and their stepmother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. This investigation was still in progress when the next report was received.

On December 1, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father, Christopher Scholtes. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The child transitioned to their mother's care, the family was provided with in-home services, and the case was closed in April 2021.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation was conducted with the Marana Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe with the other parent.

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

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.