

Information for Release		8/15/2013
-------------------------	--	-----------

Date of the notification to CPS: 8/22/2012

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 8/22/2012

Child's name: A'layha Reynolds

Age at time of incident: 6 Months

Perpetrator(s): Mario Lee

Age: 23 years old

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 August 22, 2012, A'layha Reynolds was left in the care of her mother's boyfriend, Mario Lee. He called the mother in a panic when he found A'layha unresponsive. The mother called 911 and when the paramedics arrived, Mario Lee was attempting CPR on A'layha. She was transported to Phoenix Children's Hospital where she was pronounced dead. Mario Lee gave several different stories as to what occurred while A'layha was in his care including she had been choking and he hit her on the back, he had fallen and dropped A'layha, and he had hit her head accidentally on the edge of the couch. The autopsy revealed that the child died of blunt force trauma to the head. Mario Lee was arrested and charged with murder.

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 received no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of A'layha Reynolds by Mario Lee.

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

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) conducted a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were placed with a relative.

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

Services offered to the family include parent aide services, substance abuse treatment, counseling and supervised visitation.

*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).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not 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.