



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	9/1/16
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 7/7/16 are displayed below in red.

1. Near Fatality Victim: 5-year-old – male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 6/3/16

3. Date of near fatality: 6/3/16

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:

Corey Royalty-6/22/16
Stephanie Berlanga-7/21/16

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Corey Royalty– age 26 – Phoenix, AZ
Stephanie Berlanga – age 27 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On June 3, 2016, the Department of Child Safety received information that the near fatality victim was taken to a hospital where it was determined he had life threatening injuries that required immediate surgery. During the course of the investigation it was determined that the near fatality victim sustained his injuries while in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Corey Royalty. Corey Royalty was arrested for felony child abuse. **In addition, the near fatality victim's mother, Stephanie Berlanga, has been indicted on child abuse charges for failure to get medical treatment for the near fatality victim.**

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 has received the following prior report involving the near fatality victim **and his mother, Stephanie Berlanga:**

On August 30, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his mother, **Stephanie Berlanga**. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

DCS has received the following prior report involving Corey Royalty:

On September 7, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to Corey Royalty biological children. Following an assessment of child safety, the Department placed the children with a relative and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations have been proposed for substantiation.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

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



Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and his siblings were removed and placed in foster care.

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

The Department is providing services to the family.

*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.