

Information for Release		3/27/2014
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Date of the notification to CPS: 3/22/2014

Near Fatality

The date the child suffered the near fatality: 3/22/2014

Child's name: Bryan

Age at time of incident: 9 Months

Perpetrator(s): Veronica Diaz and Ryan Morris

Age: 27 years and 32 years

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

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

On March 22, 2014, nine month old Bryan was brought to the hospital by his father who reported he was not eating. Bryan was observed to be extremely dehydrated and severely malnourished. He weighed only 7lbs. 6oz. and was unresponsive upon arrival. It was later found that the parents, Veronica Diaz and Ryan Morris, were purposely not feeding the baby and stated they had run out of formula, but did not make efforts to obtain more. On March 24, 2014 both parents were arrested and charged with child abuse.

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* :

The Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS) has received no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Bryan by Veronica Diaz or Ryan Morris.

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

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI), assisted by the Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS) is conducting a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Bryan currently remains hospitalized and the other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care.

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

Services will be determined following the outcome of the investigation.

*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).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.