



Information for Release	AMENDED	6/25/15
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Date of the notification to DCS: 9/25/2014

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 9/26/2014

Child's name: Angel Rodriguez

Age at time of incident: 19 months

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

George Hernandez – age 18

Desiree Rodriguez – age 20

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Phoenix, AZ

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

On September 25, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report stating that 19-month-old Angel Rodriguez had been admitted to the hospital and was on life support. Angel was observed to have bruising to his face and torso and was later diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. An investigation determined he had been home in the care of George Hernandez who was arrested and charged with child abuse. On September 26, 2014, Angel died from his injuries. On May 19, 2015, it was determined that Angel's mother, Desiree Rodriguez, failed to protect Angel by leaving him in the care of George Hernandez.

Whether DCS 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*:

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglect involving Angel Rodriguez and George Hernandez.

DCS received the following prior report involving Angel and Desiree Rodriguez:

On March 26, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to Angel Rodriguez by his mother, Desiree Rodriguez. The report stated that Angel had been hospitalized since birth due to a congenital heart defect. There were concerns regarding his mother's ability to care for him once released from the hospital. Angel was placed in a foster home certified to care for medically fragile children and a dependency case was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. Ms. Rodriguez successfully completed services in order to help her care for Angel and he was returned to her care. The dependency case was dismissed September 2, 2014 and the DCS case was closed September 15, 2014.

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

The Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, 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 other child in the home was removed and placed in foster care.

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

Services were provided by the Department.

*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.