



Preliminary Report	Fatality	1/19/2016
---------------------------	-----------------	------------------

Amendments to the information originally posted on 12/3/15 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: Infinity Castaneda – 15-month-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 11/8/15

3. Date of fatality: 11/8/15

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

Brandon Peterson-11/9/15

Candice Pena-12/29/15

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Mohave County – Lake Havasu, AZ

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

Brandon Peterson – age 30 – Lake Havasu, AZ

Candice Pena –age 29 –Lake Havasu, AZ

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

On November 8, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a fifteen-month-old girl who was taken to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The fatality victim had the following injuries: two purple blotchy bruises on the left side of her face, right retina hemorrhaging and several lacerations on her lips and inside her mouth. Brandon Peterson was arrested on child abuse charges. **The Department also determined that the child's mother, Candice Pena, neglected Infinity by failing to protect her.**

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 no prior reports involving Candice Pena, Brandon Peterson and/or the fatality victim.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Lake Havasu City Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings in the home were placed in licensed DCS placements.

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.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

** 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.