



Preliminary Report	Fatality	10/06/21
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- 1. Victim:** Aaron Garza Jr – 11-month-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 11/16/19
- 3. Date of fatality:** 11/18/19
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 07/13/21
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Graham County – Safford, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Aaron Garza Sr – age 27 – Safford, AZ

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

On November 16, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an 11-month-old male, Aaron Garza Jr, who was transported to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. The child presented with multiple injuries suspected to be non-accidental trauma. The child passed away from his injuries on November 18, 2019. On July 13, 2021, the Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse against the father, Aaron Garza Sr. On July 14, 2021, the father, Aaron Garza Sr. was charged with first-degree murder, child abuse and aggravated assault.

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 received the following prior reports involving Aaron Garza Sr:

On March 17, 2019, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Aaron Garza Jr by Aaron Garza Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Aaron Garza Sr. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on May 14, 2019.

On June 10, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to Aaron Garza Jr by his mother and father, Aaron Garza Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed August 14, 2019.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Graham County Sheriff's Department and Safford Police Department.

10. 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 placed in foster care.

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



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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.