



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>4/05/21</b>
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**1. Victim:** Anna Loera – 13-year-old female

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 1/29/20

**3. Date of fatality:** Unknown

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

Maribel Loera – 3/31/21

Rafael Loera – 3/31/21

**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:**

Maribel Loera – age 50 – Phoenix, AZ

Rafael Loera – age 56– Phoenix, AZ

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

On January 29, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received information that indicated 13-year-old Anna Loera had been found deceased. Anna’s remains were found after Phoenix Fire Department responded to the home for a fire. On August 3, 2020, the Maricopa County Superior Court found that the father, Rafael Loera, admitted to knowing Anna was being abused by her mother, Maribel Loera, and that the child died while he was taking her to the hospital, however, he returned to the home and hid the child in the attic. Additionally, on December 16, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of abuse by Maribel Loera. On March 31, 2021, Rafael and Maribel Loera were charged with first degree murder.

**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 Anna, Maribel and/ or Rafael Loera:

On December 8, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to Anna by her biological mother. The case was closed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On February 15, 2010, a report was received alleging neglect to Anna by her biological mother. The case was closed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On February 18, 2013, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Anna by an unknown person. The case was closed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On October 1, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by Maribel and Rafael. The case was closed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On January 20, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the fatality victim’s sibling by Rafael. The report was being investigated when the Department was notified of Anna’s death.



On January 28, 2020, a report was received alleging physical abuse to two of the fatality victim's siblings by Maribel and Rafael Loera. The report was being investigated when the Department was notified of Anna's death.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

One child was removed on January 20, 2020, after the Department responded to the report. The other children were not in the home at the time and were reportedly in another state living with their mother, Maribel Loera. DCS contacted Child Protective Services in the other state and the CPS workers made contact with the mother and two children on January 27, 2020. The Department obtained a court authorized removal and notified the other state's CPS. When the CPS workers returned to the home to remove the children the next day, a neighbor informed them that the family had left town. On January 28, 2020, DCS specialists visited the Loera's home in Phoenix where they located and removed the two siblings.

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

The Department provided 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.