ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

Preliminary Report	Fatality	4/13/2021

1. Victim: Denali Yazzie – 6-year-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 08/29/20

3. Date of fatality: 08/29/20

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 10/21/20

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Glendale, AZ

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

Velencia Tso-Yazzie – age 45 – Glendale, AZ
Dulbert Yazzie – age 44 – Glendale, AZ

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

On August 29, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 6-year-old Denali Yazzie, who was pronounced deceased after being found next to a pill in her home. The pill Denali ingested was fentanyl. The siblings were taken into custody. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on September 2, 2020, alleging neglect to Denali Yazzie and her siblings by their parents, Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie. On October 21, 2020, the court found the parents neglected Denali Yazzie and her siblings.

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 report involving Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie:

> On March 19, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to Denali Yazzie and her siblings by the parents, Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie. The children were taken into custody and a dependency petition was filed on April 5, 2018, alleging neglect by Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie. The parents were provided services by the Department throughout the dependency matter. On November 13, 2018, the court dismissed the dependency matter. The children were returned to the father, Dulbert Yazzie. The case was closed on November 14, 2018.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Glendale Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed in foster care.

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.

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*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.