



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>10/19/21</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Elijah Fisher – newborn male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 7/6/21
- 3. Date of fatality:** 7/9/21
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 7/23/21
- 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:**

Jose Gabriel Yepiz – age 36 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On July 6, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Elijah Fisher, who was born prematurely after an emergency c-section was performed on his mother due to being assaulted by Jose Gabriel Yepiz. Elijah eventually passed away on July 9, 2021. Jose Gabriel Yepiz was arrested and charged with first degree murder on July 23, 2021.

**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)\*\*:**

There were no prior DCS reports involving Jose Gabriel Yepiz or Elijah Fisher.

**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:**

There were no other children in the home.

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

There were no services provided by the Department.

\*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.