



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>11/3/2020</b>
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**1. Victim:** Marlee Rivera-Boykin – 3 month old female

**2. Date of notification to DCS:** 08/05/2018

**3. Date of fatality:** 08/05/2018

**4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 06/01/2020

**5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Surprise, Az

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

Stephany Rivera – age 24 – Phoenix, Az

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

On August 5, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-month-old Marlee Rivera-Bokyin who was found unresponsive at home wedged between two sofa cushions. The mother, Stephany Rivera, was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and marijuana when she co-slept with the child. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect pertaining to the mother.

**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 Stephany and/or Marlee Rivera-Boykin:

On September 20, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the father and the mother, Stephany Rivera. Following an assessment of child safety, the sibling was placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the allegations were substantiated. The Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

On May 5, 2018 a report was received alleging neglect to Marlee by the mother, Stephanie. The child was assessed as safe. The case remained open as the Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Surprise Police Department.

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

The other child was already placed out of the home with a relative when the incident occurred.

**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.