



Preliminary Report	Fatality	03/22/17
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- 1. Victim:** Landen Lavarnia – 9-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 03/20/17
- 3. Date of fatality:** 03/21/17
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 03/22/2017
- 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:**

Wendy Rodriguez Lavarnia – age 28 – Phoenix, AZ
Kansas Lavarnia – age 30 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On March 20, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Landen Lavarnia, 9 years old, being taken to a local hospital, in critical condition, after being shot in the head. Landen died the following day. The parents, Kansas Lavarnia and Wendy Rodriguez, were each arrested and 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 has received the following prior reports/cases involving Landen Lavarnia, Wendy Rodriguez and/or Kansas Lavarnia:

On June 10, 2014, a report was received alleging Wendy Rodriguez gave birth to a substance exposed newborn. The family participated in intensive in-home services, however, Landen Lavarnia and his siblings were later removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court in August 2014. The Department was providing services to the family when the subsequent report was received.

On November 25, 2015, a report was received alleging Wendy Rodriguez gave birth to a substance exposed newborn. The Department continued providing services to the family. The dependency was dismissed in March 2016 and the case was closed in June 2016 after the family successfully completed services.

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

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

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were removed and placed in a licensed foster home.

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



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

The Department is providing supportive services to the children and will continue to assess for other services to be provided 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.