



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Fatality	06/23/2023
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1. Victim: Alaia Judge – 1-year-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 03/15/2022

3. Date of fatality: 04/04/2022

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:
05/01/2023

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

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

Alexandra Benally – age 42 – Kaibeto, AZ

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

On March 15, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-year-old, Alaia Judge, who was found unresponsive at home and transported to the hospital. She later passed away on April 4, 2022 due to complications of fentanyl ingestion. The child was in the care of her grandmother, Alexandra Benally, at the time of the incident. On May 1, 2023, Alexandra Benally was indicted on one count of manslaughter and one count of child abuse.

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 Alexandra Benally or Alaia Judge.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Tempe Police Department.

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

The other child in the home was assessed as safe in the care of their parents.

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.

Safety · Compassion · Change · Teaming · Advocacy · Engagement · Accountability · 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.