



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Fatality	04/28/2023
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1. Victim: Alisona Maafu – 9-month-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 5/10/21

3. Date of fatality: 5/10/21

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 4/19/23

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

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

Pohiva Maafu – age 37 – Mesa, AZ

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

On May 10, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9-month-old male who was found unresponsive in an adult bed. The child was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. It was determined the child died of asphyxia due to the unsafe sleep environment. On April 19, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the father, Pohiva Maafu.

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 Alisona and/or Pohiva Maafu:

On August 15, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by Mr. Maafu. The allegations were unsubstantiated due to a lack of evidence; however, in-home services were referred to further assist the family. The services were completed and the case was closed.

On April 14, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Alisona by Mr. Maafu and the mother. The child had an unexplained skull fracture that was determined to be consistent with an accidental fall. During the investigation, another child was observed with a bruise on their arm. Mr. Maafu admitted to disciplining the child with a belt and the allegation was substantiated. Mr. Maafu agreed to not physically discipline the children. The children were assessed as safe with the parents and the case was closed.

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

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Mesa 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 assessed as being safe with the 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.

*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.