



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director  
Katie Hobbs, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>06/02/2023</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Braxton Lopez – 2-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 5/16/23
- 3. Date of fatality:** 5/16/23
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 5/19/23
- 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:**

Johnny Brazell – age 20 – Phoenix, AZ  
Leilah Lopez – age 20 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On May 16, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Braxton Lopez who had been taken to the hospital with extensive injuries throughout his body and pronounced deceased. Johnny Brazell eventually admitted he caused the injuries to the child and that he and the mother, Leilah Lopez, did not seek medical attention for the child and instead made up a story to cover for the incident. On May 19, 2023, Mr. Brazell and Ms. Lopez were charged with first degree murder and 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 Johnny Brazell, Leilah Lopez, or the child.

**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:**

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care.

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

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The Department is providing services 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.

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