

Preliminary Report	Fatality	05/10/2024
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- 1. Victim:** Brian Mejia 7-month-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 3/31/2024
- 3. Date of fatality:** 3/31/2024
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 5/8/2024
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Glendale, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Tina Marie Mejia – age 26 – Glendale, AZ
Jacob Gano – age 23 – Glendale, AZ

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

On March 31, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 7-month-old Brian Mejia who was brought to the hospital by his mother and significant other with no pulse. He was later pronounced deceased at the hospital due to a severe head injury and multiple skull fractures. On April 18, 2024, the child’s mother, Tina Mejia, and significant other, Jacob Gano, were indicted on charges of 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):**

DCS received the following prior report involving Tina Mejia:

On September 1, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the fatality victim. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Tina Mejia. The family was referred to in-home services and a safety plan was put into place with responsible adults. The safety plan was lifted on December 15, 2023, and the case closed on March 13, 2024.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Jacob Gano:

On December 11, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Jacob Gano. No services were offered to the family and the case was closed on February 13, 2023.

On February 20, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and father, Jacob Gano. The children were taken into DCS custody and a dependency

petition was filed. The family was offered reunification services. The children were returned to their mother's care on January 28, 2024, and the dependency was dismissed on March 12, 2024.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Glendale Police Department.

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

There were no other children in the home.

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.