

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>12/15/2023</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Dominic Nunez – four-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 06/24/2021
- 3. Date of fatality:** 10/17/2021
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**  
08/18/2023
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Tucson, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Jessica Nunez– age 32 – El Paso, TX

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

On June 24, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding four-year-old, Dominic Nunez, who was hospitalized and found to have suffered multiple non-accidental injuries. Dominic was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury on May 22, 2021, while in the care of his aunt, Jessica Nunez, in El Paso, TX. He was transported to a hospital in Tucson, AZ on June 24, 2021, where he was treated and later released to a medically assisted home. On October 17, 2021 Dominic passed away. It was determined that Dominic’s cause of death is ascribed to blunt force injuries. On August 18, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Dominic by his aunt, Jessica Nunez.

**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 the child, Dominic Nunez:

On January 17, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Dominic by his mother and father. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On July 13, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Dominic and his siblings by their mothers, father, and another adult. Following an assessment of child safety, the children were removed and a dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Juvenile Court. The allegations as to the other adult were unsubstantiated. The allegations of neglect as to the children’s mother and father were substantiated. The Department provided services to the family. The children were returned to their mother’s care in April 2019 when the dependency was dismissed and the case was closed.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Jessica Nunez:

On June 13, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, Jessica Nunez. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On March 30, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, Jessica Nunez. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The investigation was still open when another report was received.

On September 5, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to children by their mother, Jessica Nunez, and another adult. Following an assessment of child safety, the children were removed from the home and a dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Juvenile Court. The Department provided services to the family and the allegations were substantiated. Jessica's parental rights were terminated to the children on July 18, 2015 and the case was closed.

On February 26, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Jessica Nunez. The child was removed and added to the existing dependency for the mother's older children with Pima County Juvenile Court. Jessica's parental rights were terminated to the child on November 30, 2015 and the case was closed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the El Paso Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, Dominic's sibling was removed and placed in a licensed foster home. The child was later transitioned to the care of relatives prior to returning to their parents' care in September 2022 when the court dismissed the dependency.

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

The Department provided 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.