

Preliminary Report	Fatality	10/17/2023
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- 1. Victim:** Nianee Card – one-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 10/26/2021
- 3. Date of fatality:** 10/25/2021
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 9/13/2023
- 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:**

Desiree Valenzuela – age 23 – Tempe, AZ

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

On October 26, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 1-year-old Nianee Card after a motor vehicle accident that occurred on October 25, 2021. It was reported that the child was unrestrained in the backseat of the vehicle with her mother when the accident occurred. On September 13, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the child’s mother, Desiree Valenzuela.

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 Nianee Card or Desiree Valenzuela.

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 children in the home where the incident occurred were found to be 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.

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*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.