

Preliminary Report	Fatality	02/01/2024
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- 1. Victim:** Natalia Gonzalez-Cuen – four-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 08/17/21
- 3. Date of fatality:** 08/17/21
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 10/30/23
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Yuma County – Somerton, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Karen Gonzalez – age 29 – Somerton, AZ

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

On August 17, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of four-month-old Natalia Gonzalez-Cuen. The child was found unresponsive in an adult bed and was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. It was determined that Natalia died of asphyxia due to the unsafe sleep environment. On October 30, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the mother, Karen Gonzalez.

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 Karen Gonzalez and/or Natalia Gonzalez-Cuen.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as being safe with their parents.

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

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

*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.