



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Fatality	04/10/2023
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1. Victim: Ayla Villa – 4-month-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 01/03/22

3. Date of fatality: 01/05/22

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 03/22/23

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Peoria, AZ

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Mark Villa – age 25 – Peoria, AZ

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

On January 3, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-month-old Ayla Villa who was found unresponsive at home and transported to the hospital. The child presented with injuries suspected to be non-accidental trauma. On January 5, 2022, Ayla Villa passed away as a result of the injuries. On March 22, 2023, the child's father, Mark Villa, was indicted on 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 Ayla Villa or Mark Villa.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Peoria 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 assessed as safe with their mother.

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

There were no services provided to the family.

Safety · Compassion · Change · Teaming · Advocacy · Engagement · Accountability · 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.