



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	11/13/2020
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 11/06/2020 are displayed below in red.

- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 2-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 5/12/19
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 5/12/19
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:**

Stephanie Sanchez - 5/28/20
Lucenda Sanchez - 11/9/20

- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Yuma County – Yuma, AZ

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

Stephanie Sanchez – age 44 – Yuma, AZ
Lucenda Sanchez – age 67 – Yuma, AZ

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

On May 12, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old child who was taken to the hospital in critical condition after sustaining multiple injuries. The child was in the care of her legal guardian, Stephanie Sanchez, **and another adult, Lucenda Sanchez**, when she sustained the injuries. On May 28, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Stephanie Sanchez. **On November 9, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Lucenda Sanchez.**

- 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 Stephanie Sanchez:

On April 5, 2001, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Stephanie Sanchez. The investigation assessed the child as safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the near fatality victim:

On April 27, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by her biological mother. The report was substantiated and the family was referred for in-home services. While the case was open an additional report was received.

On May 15, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child by her biological parents. The report was unsubstantiated. The case was closed after the parents moved onto their tribe’s reservation.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Lucenda Sanchez.



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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Yuma 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 removed and placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a licensed foster home.

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

The Department provided services to the family until the family's tribe took jurisdiction of the case.

*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.