



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	04/11/18
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 8-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 12/11/17
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 12/11/17
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 12/13/17
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Serina Hernandez – age 26 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On December 11, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an 8-year-old girl who was found unresponsive at home. The report indicated that the child had been ill for the past two days and the mother, Serina Hernandez, had given the child a mixture of cough syrup and methadone. The child was admitted to the hospital in critical condition and it was determined that the methadone caused her to experience respiratory failure. On December 13, 2017 Serina Hernandez was charged with felony 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):**

DCS has received the following prior report involving Serina Hernandez and/or the near fatality victim:

On December 14, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her maternal grandmother. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On July 20, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of the near fatality victim by Serina Hernandez. An investigation was initiated and was still in progress when a subsequent report was received. The allegation was later unsubstantiated.

On August 8, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of the near fatality victim by Serina Hernandez. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was offered services through the Department and the case was closed.

On October 16, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling of the near fatality victim by Serina Hernandez. The allegation was substantiated and the case was closed. The mother was encouraged to continue participating with services already in place.

On November 20, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her stepfather and Serina Hernandez. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix 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 placed in a licensed foster home. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also 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 is providing 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.