

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	11/06/2024
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 5-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 5/22/2023

3. Date of near fatality: 5/21/2023

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:
10/30/2024

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Pinal County – Casa Grande, AZ

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

Lora Nunez – age 31 – Casa Grande, AZ

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

On May 22, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-year-old male child and his sibling, who had been involved in a wrong way motor vehicle crash and were not properly restrained. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition with severe head trauma. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the mother, Lora Nunez, who was under the influence of alcohol and did not ensure the child was properly restrained in the vehicle when it was being operated by another adult.

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 Lora Nunez and the near fatality victim:

On July 25, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and their sibling by the mother, Lora Nunez, and father. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family participated in in-home services and the case was closed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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

Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe in the care of the mother, Lora Nunez. There were no other children in the home.

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.