

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	06/17/2024
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 14-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 3/25/2023

3. Date of near fatality: 3/25/2023

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:
6/12/2024

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

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

Leonardo Ovelar – age 46 – Maricopa, AZ

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

On March 25, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 14-year-old male who was taken to the hospital after sustaining a gunshot wound to the neck. Upon evaluation, the child was determined to be in critical condition. On June 4, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect against the father, Leonardo Ovelar, due to his accidental discharge of a firearm, which struck the child in the back of the neck.

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 Leonardo Ovelar and/or the near fatality victim.

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

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

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

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 a referral to services available in the community.

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*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.