

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>05/21/2024</b>
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 4-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 1/15/2024
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 1/15/2024
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**  
5/15/2024
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Glendale, AZ

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

Valerie Pizano – age 40 – Glendale, AZ

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

On January 15, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-month-old female child who was found in the home to be severely malnourished. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition with hypothermia and low blood sugar levels. The child is diagnosed with Moebius syndrome. On January 18, 2024, a dependency petition was filed with Maricopa County Juvenile Court. On February 23, 2024, the court found the mother, Valerie Pizano, neglected the near fatality victim.

**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)\*\*:**

The child’s mother, Valerie Pizano, was involved in the following prior reports:

On November 17, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect toward children by the mother, Valerie Pizano, and their father. The allegations were substantiated. On November 22, 2017, an out of home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. On September 6, 2018, the dependency petition was dismissed and the children were returned to their mother, Valerie Pizano.

On March 23, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect toward a child by the mother, Valerie Pizano. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on June 8, 2022.

On December 22, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by the mother, Valerie Pizano, and their father. On December 29, 2022, an out of home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. An in-home safety plan was later implemented with responsible adults. On July 5, 2023, the dependency petition was dismissed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Glendale Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a licensed DDD 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.