



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>8/5/2021</b>
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 4-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/12/21
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 4/12/21
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 7/26/21
- 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:**

Cristina Hernandez-Valenta – age 35 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On April 12, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-month-old female who was left in a car for several hours by her mother, Cristina Hernandez-Valenta. The child was taken to the hospital and found to be in critical condition. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect on July 26, 2021.

**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 Cristina Hernandez-Valenta and/or the near fatality victim.

**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 near fatality victim and the other children in the home were assessed as safe.

**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.