



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	09/12/2019
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 1-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/18/19
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 4/18/19
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 8/5/19
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Avondale, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Lucia Arguelles – age 44 – Avondale, AZ

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

On April 18, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old child who was brought to the hospital in critical condition. When he arrived, he was purple in color, but he was resuscitated and intubated. He was having seizures and his pupils were consistent with an overdose. A toxicology screen was conducted, which was positive for agents given by the hospital, fentanyl and benzodiazepines, but also for aminophenazone, which is an NSAID no longer available in the United States. There was a high suspicion that his altered mental state was caused by synthetic fentanyl. The child had been at home in the care of his mother, Lucia Arguelles, when the incident occurred. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court on April 23, 2019. On August 5, 2019, the court found through the dependency proceeding that the mother neglected the child by failing to provide him with a safe and stable home environment and proper supervision.

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 reports involving Lucia Arguelles and/or the near fatality victim:

On November 17, 2006, a report was received alleging neglect to siblings of the near fatality victim by their mother, Lucia Arguelles. The Department began providing intensive in-home services and the case was open when another report was received. The allegations were later substantiated.

On April 25, 2007, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a sibling of the near fatality victim by the mother, Lucia Arguelles. The investigation resulted in the allegations being unsubstantiated. The Department continued providing services to the family and the case was closed after services were successfully completed.

On April 27, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to siblings of the near fatality victim by their mother, Lucia Arguelles. The investigation resulted in the allegations being unsubstantiated and the case was closed.



On May 9, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his siblings by their mother, Lucia Arguelles. The investigation assessed the children as safe and the case was closed with the allegations unsubstantiated.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Avondale 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 with a relative. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed with the relative.

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 including services to support the other children involved.

*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.