



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	12/11/19
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 5-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/5/19
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 4/5/19
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 10/30/19
- 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:**

Mercedes Seyfried – age 26 – Phoenix, AZ
Michael Ramirez – age 27 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On April 5, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 5-month-old female that was taken to the hospital in critical condition with a multitude of injuries. On May 3, 2019, after the child was released from the hospital, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. The court granted the dependency petition on October 30, 2019, and the Department substantiated the allegations as to the parents, Mercedes Seyfried and Michael Ramirez.

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 report involving Mercedes Seyfried and the near fatality victim:

On November 15, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and another child by their mother, Mercedes Seyfried. The Department offered the family in-home services but the parents declined the offer. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

DCS has received no prior reports involving Michael Ramirez.

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 other children in the home were placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in foster care.

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.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

*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.