



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	8/13/2020
---------------------------	----------------------	------------------

- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 20-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 02/03/2020
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 02/03/2020
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 07/31/2020
- 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:**

Jose Cruz German Balderas – age 23 – Phoenix, AZ
Vanessa Nicole Moreno– age 21 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On February 3, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 20-month-old female presenting to the hospital in critical condition after ingesting fentanyl. The near fatality victim and her sibling were taken into custody and placed in foster care. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on February 6, 2020, alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and her sibling by their parents, Jose Cruz German Balderas and Vanessa Nicole Moreno, and on March 23, 2020 a petition for termination of parental rights was filed. On July 31, 2020, the court ruled the parents neglected the near fatality victim and her sibling and granted the termination of parental rights.

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 received no prior reports involving Jose Cruz German Balderas, Vanessa Nicole Moreno 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 other child in the home was placed with a relative placement. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed with the same relative placement.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

The Department provided 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.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

** 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.