



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Michael Wisehart, Interim Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	03/31/2023
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** one-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 08/30/2021
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 08/30/2021
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 1/20/2023
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Chandler, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Stephanie Gonzales – age 26 – Chandler, AZ

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

On August 30, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year old male who was taken to the hospital. Upon evaluation, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to fentanyl ingestion. On January 20, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales.

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 the following prior reports involving Stephanie Gonzales and/or the near fatality victim:

On July 24, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales. No services were provided to the family. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on September 29, 2020.

On May 24, 2021 the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging physical abuse of the near fatality victim by his mother, Stephanie Gonzales. An investigation was initiated and was still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations of physical abuse. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on January 24, 2022 in conjunction with the near fatality report.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Chandler Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and his sibling were assessed as safe in the care of the other parent.

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

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

*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.