



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director  
Katie Hobbs, Governor

<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>06/02/2023</b>
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 3-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 06/20/21
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 06/20/21
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**

Cassandra Armstead – 10/12/21  
Montez Bowers – 10/12/21  
Megan Morris – 4/12/23

**5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Tucson, AZ

**6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Cassandra Armstead – age 30 – Phoenix, AZ  
Montez Bowers – age 32 – Tucson, AZ  
Megan Morris – age 29 – Tucson, AZ

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

On June 20, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near drowning of a 3-year-old male. Upon examination, the child was found to be in critical condition. The child was under the care of his parents, Cassandra Armstead and Montez Bowers, as well as another adult, Megan Morris. The child was left unsupervised at the time of the near drowning. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Superior Court and on October 12, 2021, the court found the dependency as to both parents. Additionally, on April 12, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the child by Megan Morris.

**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)\*\*:**

The child’s mother, Cassandra Armstead, and/or the child’s father, Montez Bowers, were involved in the following prior reports:

On June 12, 2018, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his siblings by Ms. Armstead and Mr. Bowers. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on June 27, 2018. The report was open when the next report was received.

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On June 18, 2018, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his siblings by Ms. Armstead and Mr. Bowers. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on June 27, 2018. The family was provided with daycare and community services.

On January 11, 2019, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his mother, Cassandra Armstead. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on March 1, 2019. There were no services provided to the family.

On May 10, 2019, report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by his mother, Cassandra Armstead. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on July 5, 2019. The family was provided with daycare and community services.

On July 20, 2019, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his siblings by his mother, Cassandra Armstead. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on September 27, 2019. The family was provided with community services.

On April 17, 2021, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his siblings by Ms. Armstead and Mr. Bowers. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on June 17, 2021. The family was offered community services.

DCS received no prior reports involving Ms. Morris.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Tucson 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.

\*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.