



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

David Lujan, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	08/21/2023
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 4-month-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 4/22/2021

3. Date of near fatality: 4/21/2021

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:
10/11/2022

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Yuma County – Yuma, AZ

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

Amber Hehe – age 23 – Yuma, AZ
Gary Williams – age 21 – Yuma, AZ

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

On April 22, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-month-old female who was found unresponsive at home and transported to the hospital. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition and required intubation for acute respiratory failure, altered medical status, and seizures. On April 28, 2021, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yuma County Superior Court. On October 11, 2022, the court found that the parents, Amber Hehe and Gary Williams, neglected the child.

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 report involving the child’s mother, Amber Hehe, and the near fatality victim:

On March 13, 2021, report was received alleging neglect to the child by her mother, Amber Hehe. The investigation assessed the baby as safe with her parents and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on April 21, 2021.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Yuma Police Department.

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

Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in licensed foster care. In December 2021, the child was transitioned to a kinship caregiver. The child was returned to her parents' care on May 22, 2023 when the court dismissed the dependency. There were no other children in the home.

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.

** 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.