

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	05/13/2024
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 4-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 3/20/2024
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 3/20/2024
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:**
5/8/2024
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Glendale, AZ

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

Laquasha Sebastian – age 31 – Glendale, AZ

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

On March 30, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after sustaining an accidental gunshot wound to the chest. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition. On March 27, 2024, Laquasha Sebastian was indicted by a Maricopa County grand jury with one count of child abuse.

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 Laquasha Sebastian and the near fatality victim:

On May 1, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his father and significant other, Laquasha Sebastian. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated as to both caregivers. No services were offered to the family and the case was closed on May 26, 2023.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the near fatality victim:

On October 16, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect towards the near fatality victim and sibling against their mother. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated to the mother. Daycare services were provided to the family and the case was closed on November 23, 2021.

On December 20, 2021 a report was received alleging neglect towards the near fatality victim and sibling against their parents. The allegation of neglect was substantiated to the

mother. The children were taken into DCS custody and an out of home dependency petition was filed. On March 28, 2022, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe with his father and the dependency was dismissed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Glendale 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 assessed as safe with their mother. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed with a relative.

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.