

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	06/06/2024
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 1-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 03/24/2022
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 03/24/2022
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:**
06/05/2024
- 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:**

Eric Casillas – age 34 – Tucson, AZ
Erika Saavedra – age 30 – Tucson, AZ

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

On March 24, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old male who was taken to the hospital for a fentanyl overdose. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition. On March 29, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court. On April 21, 2022, the court found that the child’s parents, Eric Casillas and Erika Saavedra, 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 reports involving Eric Casillas, Erika Saavedra, and/or the near fatality victim:

On September 21, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect of two children by their parents, Eric Casillas and Erika Saavedra. The investigation assessed the children as safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on November 20, 2020.

On April 1, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect of the child and his siblings by their parents, Eric Casillas and Erika Saavedra. The investigation assessed the children as safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The family declined services offered by the Department and the case was closed on July 16, 2021.

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 near fatality victim and his siblings were removed and placed in foster care. They were transitioned to a relative caregiver on April 5, 2022.

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.