

Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	08/06/2024
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 1-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 04/25/2023
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 04/25/2023
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:**
07/31/2024
- 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:**

Desmond Powell – age 28 – Tucson, AZ
Karina Saenz – age 30 – Tucson, AZ

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

On April 25, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old male who was found minimally responsive in the family home. The child was transported to the hospital where he was determined to be in critical condition due to fentanyl ingestion. On May 23, 2023, a dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Superior Court. On August 11, 2023, the court found that the parents, Desmond Powell and Karina Saenz, 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):**

There were no prior DCS reports involving Desmond Powell and/or the near fatality victim.

DCS received the following prior report involving Karina Saenz:

On December 29, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Karina Saenz. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success and the case was closed.

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 sibling were assessed as safe in the care of their mother, Karina Saenz, with a safety plan in place for any contact with father, Desmond Powell.

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.