



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>10/27/2022</b>
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 2-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 7/10/22
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 7/10/22
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 10/5/22
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Buckeye, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Steven Ybarra – age 32 – Buckeye, AZ

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

On July 10, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old male that was taken to the hospital after he was having difficulty breathing. The child was determined to be in critical condition and tested positive for methadone, fentanyl, and benzodiazepine. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on July 13, 2022. On October 5, 2022, the Maricopa County Superior Court found the father, Steven Ybarra, failed to protect the child from accessing dangerous drugs.

**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 Mr. Ybarra.

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

On November 25, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by his mother. The investigation assessed the child as safe with his mother and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was receiving services within the community and the case was closed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Buckeye Police Department.

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

Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed with a relative. 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 is providing services to the family.



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY

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Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

\*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.