



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	9/20/18
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 8/2/18 are displayed below in red.

1. **Near Fatality Victim:** 4-year-old male
2. **Date of notification to DCS:** 2/3/18
3. **Date of near fatality:** 2/3/18
4. **Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:**

Maria Montiel - 7/25/18  
Steven Nelson – 9/5/18

5. **County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ

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

Maria Montiel – age 26 – Phoenix, AZ  
Steven Nelson – age 25 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On February 3, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-year-old male with suspected non-accidental trauma including bruising sustained throughout his entire body. It was determined the child was in critical condition. The child had been in the care of his mother, Maria Montiel, and her boyfriend, Steven Nelson. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. It was determined through the dependency hearing that Maria Montiel had abused and/or failed to protect the child from abuse. On September 5, 2018, Steven Nelson was found guilty of child abuse after signing a plea agreement on August 2, 2018.

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 has received no prior reports involving the child, Steven Nelson, or Maria Montiel.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety and upon release from the hospital, the child was removed and placed in foster care. 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*

**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

\*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.