



Summary Report	Fatality	4/5/21
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1. Victim: Anna Loera – 13-year-old female

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On January 29, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received information that indicated 13-year-old Anna Loera had been found deceased. Anna's remains were found after Phoenix Fire Department responded to the home for a fire. On August 3, 2020, the Maricopa County Superior Court found that the father, Rafael Loera, admitted to knowing Anna was being abused by her mother, Maribel Loera, and that the child died while he was taking her to the hospital, however, he returned to the home and hid the child in the attic. Additionally, on December 16, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of abuse by Maribel Loera. On March 31, 2021, Rafael and Maribel Loera were charged with first degree murder.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

The Department was investigating two open reports dated January 20, 2020, and January 28, 2020, when the Department was notified that Anna's remains had been discovered. Anna's siblings were in the Department's custody when this information was received. One child was removed on January 20, 2020, after the Department responded to the report. The other children were not in the home at the time and were reportedly in another state living with their mother, Maribel Loera. DCS contacted Child Protective Services in the other state and the CPS workers made contact with the mother and two children on January 27, 2020. The Department obtained a court authorized removal and notified the other state's CPS. When the CPS workers returned to the home to remove the children the next day, a neighbor informed them that the family had left town. On January 28, 2020, DCS specialists visited the Loera's home in Phoenix where they located and removed the two siblings. Anna's whereabouts were previously unknown. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on January 28, 2020.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

Anna's sibling and Rafael Loera were subjects of the January 20, 2020, report. All of the children and their parents, Rafael and Maribel Loera, were subjects of the January 28, 2020, report.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

DCS received the following prior reports involving Maribel and/ or Rafael Loera:



On January 20, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the fatality victim's sibling by Rafael. The report was being investigated when the Department was notified of Anna's death.

On January 28, 2020, a report was received alleging physical abuse to two of the fatality victim's siblings by Maribel and Rafael Loera. The report was being investigated when the Department was notified of Anna's death.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The fatality victim's siblings were already in the Department's custody when the fatality was discovered. One child was removed on January 20, 2020, after the Department responded to the report. The other children were not in the home at the time and were reportedly in another state living with their mother, Maribel Loera. DCS contacted Child Protective Services in the other state and the CPS workers made contact with the mother and two children on January 27, 2020. The Department obtained a court authorized removal and notified the other state's CPS. When the CPS workers returned to the home to remove the children the next day, a neighbor informed them that the family had left town. On January 28, 2020, DCS specialists visited the Loera's home in Phoenix where they located and removed the two siblings. The Department had filed dependency petitions with the Maricopa County Superior Court and provided services to the family. On August 3, 2020, the Maricopa County Superior Court found that the father, Rafael Loera, admitted to knowing Anna was being abused by her mother, Maribel Loera, and that the child died while he was taking her to the hospital, however, he returned to the home and hid the child in the attic. Additionally, on December 16, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of abuse by Maribel Loera. On March 31, 2021, Rafael and Maribel Loera were charged with first degree murder. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A



5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department. Anna's siblings were in the Department's custody when the fatality was discovered. On August 3, 2020, the Maricopa County Superior Court found that the father, Rafael Loera, admitted to knowing Anna was being abused by her mother, Maribel Loera, and that the child died while he was taking her to the hospital, however, he returned to the home and hid the child in the attic. Additionally, on December 16, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of abuse by Maribel Loera. On March 31, 2021, Rafael and Maribel Loera were charged with first degree murder. There were no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

Cases are reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department uses the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2021.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website.