



Summary Report	Fatality	8/21/19
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1. Victim: Aleena Bermudez 4 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 July 1, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Aleena Bermudez and her mother, who had been shot in their home. The mother and child were pronounced deceased upon arrival of the police and fire departments. The mother's significant other, Brandon Andres Bautista Torres, was later indicted on two counts of 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:

Although no services were being provided to the family prior to the June 30, 2019 fatality incident, the family was being investigated for an open report dated June 25, 2019, the last date of contact between the Department and the family was on June 28, 2019.

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?

The child, her sibling, and her mother's significant other, Brandon Andres Bautista Torres, were subjects of the June 25, 2019 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:

The child's mother's significant other, Brandon Andres Bautista Torres, was involved in the following prior report:

On June 25, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to the victim by Brandon Andres Andres Bautista Torres. The investigation was still pending at the time of the fatality. The allegations were later unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

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 investigation of the fatality resulted in the arrest of Brandon Andres Bautista Torres for first degree murder. The sibling was placed in licensed foster care and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services are being provided to that child. No subsequent reports have been 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 Glendale Police Department. Brandon Andres Bautista Torres was arrested for first degree murder of Aleena Bermudez and her mother. The Department placed the sibling in a licensed foster home and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. Services are being provided to that child.

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, 2019.

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