



Summary Report	Fatality	3/2/2021
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1. Victim: Julius Rodriguez – 6-month-old male

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 his home when the following incident occurred:

On January 9, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 6-month-old Julius Rodriguez who had been found unresponsive in his home. Julius had been put to sleep in a crib which also contained a plastic bag. On September 21, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to the child's mother, Sabrina Ortiz. On October 23, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to the child's father, Edgar Rodriguez.

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 January 9, 2018 fatality incident, the family was being investigated for an open report dated November 29, 2017. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on November 30, 2017.

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?

Julius Rodriguez, Sabrina Ortiz, and Edgar Rodriguez were subjects of the November 29, 2017 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 Julius Rodriguez, Sabrina Ortiz and/or Edgar Rodriguez:

On October 27, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Sabrina Ortiz. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 29, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to Julius by his parents, Sabrina Ortiz and Edgar Rodriguez. The investigation assessed the children as safe with the parents. The case was pending completion of necessary follow-up when the fatality occurred. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated.



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 report resulted in the other children in the home being assessed as safe with the parents. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect as to the parents, Sabrina Ortiz and Edgar Rodriguez. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding this family.

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. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as being safe with the parents. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect as to the parents, Sabrina Ortiz and Edgar Rodriguez. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding this family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice safe sleep. For additional information please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/Services/Safe-Sleep>.

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



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2020.

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