



Summary Report	Fatality	11/3/2020
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1. Victim: Marlee Rivera-Boykin – 3 month 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 August 5, 2018, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-month-old Marlee Rivera-Bokyin who was found unresponsive at home wedged between two sofa cushions. The mother, Stephany Rivera, was reportedly under the influence of alcohol and marijuana when she co-slept with the child. The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect pertaining to the mother.

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 in the process of transitioning the sibling back into the home as the parents had successfully completed their services when the fatality occurred. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on August 2, 2018.

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?

No.

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 parents were involved in the following:

On September 20, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the father and the mother, Stephany Rivera. Following an assessment, the sibling was placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the allegations were substantiated. The Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

On May 5, 2018 a report was received alleging neglect to Marlee by the mother, Stephanie. The child was assessed as safe with the parents. The case remained open as the Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.

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 sibling remaining in out of home care. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect. The sibling had been placed with relatives. The Department had previously filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and services are being provided.

A subsequent report involving a sibling and the mother, Stephany Rivera, was received on March 13, 2020 regarding allegations of neglect. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The child was placed in the same home as their sibling and services are being provided.

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 Surprise Police Department. The allegations were substantiated against the mother, Stephany Rivera, for the fatality report. The Department had previously filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court with respect to a sibling and was offering services to the family. The Department also investigated a report regarding another sibling in March 2020. This child was assessed as unsafe and placed with their sibling. Services are being offered to the family through the dependency action.

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



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Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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, 2020.

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

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>.