



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>09/23/2020</b>
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**1. Victim:** Mateo Rodriguez aka Negreros – 5-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 March 16, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 5-month-old Mateo who was found unresponsive in his home. The child was taken to the hospital and pronounced deceased. An autopsy was conducted and determined methamphetamine exposure contributed to the child's cause of death. On January 29, 2020 and February 21, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect against both parents, Steve Negreros and Leslie 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 March 16, 2019 fatality incident, the family was being investigated for one open report dated February 7, 2019. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on February 8, 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?**

Mateo was the subject of the February 7, 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:**

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mateo, Steve Negreros, and/or Leslie Rodriguez:

On March 1, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to two children by Steve Negreros and Leslie Rodriguez. The report was unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The family was referred for counseling services.

On March 7, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to a child by Leslie Rodriguez. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On June 7, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by Steve Negreros and Leslie Rodriguez. The family was unable to be located and the case was closed.



On March 19, 2018, a report was received alleging physical abuse and neglect to multiple children by Steve Negreros and Leslie Rodriguez. The family was unable to be located and the case was closed.

On February 7, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to Mateo by his mother, Leslie Rodriguez. The investigation assessed the family as safe and the case remained open while the investigation continued 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 siblings being removed and placed with relatives. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. The allegations of neglect pertaining to Steve Negreros and Leslie Rodriguez have been substantiated. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 the Phoenix Police Department. The fatality victim's siblings were removed and placed with relatives. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect pertaining to Steve Negreros and Leslie Rodriguez. No subsequent reports have been 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



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Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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, 2020.

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