



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>4/27/17</b>
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**1. Victim:** Landen Lavarnia – 9-year-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 20, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding Landen Lavarnia, 9 years old, being taken to a local hospital, in critical condition, after being shot in the head. Landen died the following day. The parents, Kansas Lavarnia and Wendy Rodriguez, were each arrested and 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:**

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

**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, Wendy Rodriguez and Kansas Lavarnia, were involved in the following:

On June 10, 2014, a report was received alleging Wendy Rodriguez gave birth to a substance exposed newborn. The family participated in intensive in-home services, however, Landen Lavarnia and his siblings were later removed and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court in August 2014. The Department was providing services to the family when the subsequent report was received.

On November 25, 2015, a report was received alleging Wendy Rodriguez gave birth to a substance exposed newborn. The Department continued providing services to the family. The dependency was dismissed in March 2016 and the case was closed in June 2016 after the family successfully completed services.

**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 parents, Wendy Rodriguez and Kansas Lavarnia, being charged with first degree murder and child abuse in connection to the child's death. The siblings were removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and services are being provided. 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 parents are being charged with first degree murder and child abuse in connection to the child's death. The siblings were removed from the home and placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and services are being provided.

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.

This case was 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 is using 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 will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is December 1, 2017.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>.