

Summary Report	Fatality	11/06/2024
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1. Victim: Gil Gomez – 1-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 June 18, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-month-old, Gil Gomez, who was found approximately 11 days after he passed away in a plastic tote on the porch of the home. On June 26, 2024, Gil's parents, Coty and Robert Gomez, were charged with child abuse, abandonment or concealment of a dead body, and negligent homicide.

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:

There were no services 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:

There were no prior DCS reports involving Robert Gomez as an alleged perpetrator.

DCS received the following prior report involving Coty Gomez:

On September 27, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Coty Gomez. The investigation resulted in the child being placed in foster care and a dependency petition was filed with the Yuma County Superior Court. On October 7, 2022, the courts determined the dependency would be transferred to Riverside County, California, as the family lived there and had an open dependency matter in that jurisdiction. The child was assessed as safe in California CPS custody. The allegations were 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 child's parents, Coty and Robert Gomez, being charged with child abuse, abandonment or concealment of a dead body, and negligent homicide. There were no other children in the home. There were no services provided by the Department and the case was closed. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received regarding the 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 La Paz County Sheriff's Office. The investigation of the fatality resulted in the child's parents, Coty and Robert Gomez, being charged with child abuse, abandonment or concealment of a dead body, and negligent homicide. There were no other children in the home. There were no services provided by the Department and the case was closed. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received regarding the family.

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 fatality and near fatality cases with prior DCS involvement, which are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and supports 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, 2024.