

David Lujan, Cabinet Executive Officer/Executive Deputy Director Katie Hobbs, Governor

Summary Report	Fatality	06/04/2024

- **1. Victim:** Sergio Reyes 15-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 June 21, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 15-year-old Sergio Reyes who was shot and killed at a park. The investigation determined that Sergio's mother, Kimberly Lambert, had taken Sergio with her to the park for a drug transaction. On May 6, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Sergio by his mother, Kimberly Lambert.

- 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 has been no prior involvement of the child's parents with DCS.

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:

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The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's siblings being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the parents and the dependency was dismissed on February 14, 2020. On May 6, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Sergio by his mother, Kimberly Lambert.

A subsequent report involving the siblings was received on December 4, 2019, alleging neglect by the parents. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the children were assessed as safe in the home. The family continued engaging in services already in place for the open dependency from the fatality incident; the dependency was dismissed on February 14, 2020.

An additional subsequent report involving a sibling was received on February 14, 2020, alleging physical abuse by the parents. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on March 4, 2020.

Another subsequent report involving a sibling was received on September 10, 2020, alleging neglect by the mother, Kimberly Lambert. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to assess the family without success. The report was closed as unable to locate on October 27, 2020.

Another subsequent report was received involving the siblings was received on February 19, 2021, alleging neglect by the parents. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to assess the family without success. The report was closed as unable to locate on March 23, 2021.

- 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 investigation of the fatality report resulted in the other children in the home being placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the parents and the dependency was dismissed on February 14, 2020. On May 6, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Sergio by his mother, Kimberly Lambert.

A subsequent report involving the parents and the siblings was received on December 4, 2019, regarding allegations of neglect. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family continued engaging in services that were in place for the open dependency. The dependency was dismissed on February 14, 2020. Two subsequent reports regarding the siblings were investigated and unsubstantiated. Two additional subsequent reports regarding the siblings were received and efforts were made to assess the family without success; these investigations were closed as unable to locate.

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.