

Summary Report	Fatality	04/30/2024
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1. Victim: Yulissa Moreno Perez – 7-year-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 June 24, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 7-year-old Yulissa Moreno Perez and her 10-year-old sister Xenia Moreno Perez. The children were not restrained in the vehicle when their mother, Cristina Moreno, lost control of the vehicle resulting in a rollover accident. Yulissa, was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The sibling, Xenia, was ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced deceased at the scene. On January 17, 2024, Cristina Moreno was indicted by a Maricopa County Grand Jury on two counts of felony manslaughter related to the death of the children.

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:

DCS received the following prior reports involving Cristina Moreno, Xenia Moreno Perez, and/or Yulissa Moreno Perez:

On December 13, 2011, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Cristina Moreno. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the

allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On May 1, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Cristina Moreno. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On July 31, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to Yulissa by the mother, Cristina Moreno. The report also included allegations of sexual abuse to Yulissa by another adult. A joint investigation was completed with law enforcement and the allegation of sexual abuse was substantiated. The DCS investigation determined that there was no evidence to support the allegation of neglect against Ms. Moreno and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The Department remained involved with the family and assisted in connecting the family with community resources. The Department offered additional services, which the family declined, and the case was closed in June 2020.

On September 29, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Xenia by her father. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community 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 report resulted in the children's mother, Cristina Moreno, being indicted for felony manslaughter. Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as safe with their other parent. The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on April 25, 2023. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 Phoenix Police Department. The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the children's mother, Cristina Moreno, being indicted for felony manslaughter. Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as safe with their other parent. The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on April 25, 2023. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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.