



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Summary Report	Fatality	3/20/19
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 2/14/19 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: Dezlyianna Lopez – 2-month-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 January 22, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding two-month-old Dezlyianna Lopez who was found unresponsive by her father, Dustin Jose. The child was taken to the hospital where she later died on January 26, 2019. On February 4, 2019, the father, Dustin Jose, was charged with first degree murder and child abuse. **On March 11, 2019, the Pima County Juvenile Court found through a dependency proceeding that the child's mother, Joycelyn Lopez, neglected the child when she failed to seek medical attention for Dezlyianna.**

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:

DCS has received no prior reports involving Dustin Jose.

The child's mother, **Joycelyn Lopez**, was involved in the following report:

On November 2, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to Dezlyianna by her mother, **Joycelyn Lopez**. The investigation assessed the child as safe and the allegation was unsubstantiated.

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 sibling being placed in licensed foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. 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 Tucson Police Department. The fatality victim's sibling was placed in foster care and a dependency petition was filed. The Department is providing services to the family. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 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, 2019.

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