



Summary Report	Fatality	6/8/2017
----------------	----------	----------

1. Victim: Jose Valenzuela – 9-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 May 11, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9 month old male, Jose Valenzuela, who had been transported to the hospital. A CT scan revealed a subdural hematoma and a large simple skull fracture to the right side of his head. The injuries were determined to be non-accidental and resulted in Jose's death on May 15, 2017. The child's mother, Salma Rodriguez, and her boyfriend, Ivan Portillo Herrera, were arrested for felony child abuse on May 12, 2017. On May 22, 2017, both were indicted for first degree murder and child abuse.

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:

There has been no prior DCS involvement with Ivan Portillo Herrera as an alleged perpetrator.

There has been no DCS involvement with Salma Rodriguez as an alleged perpetrator within the last five years.

On December 19, 2012, a report alleging neglect to Jose's half siblings by their father. The investigation assessed them to be safe and the allegations were 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:

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the removal of other children from the home. One of the children has since been placed with his father. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and services are being provided 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 Tucson Police Department. The child's mother, Salma Rodriguez, and her boyfriend, Ivan Portillo Herrera, were both indicted for first degree murder and child abuse. The Department removed the other children in the home and filed a dependency petition with Pima County Juvenile Court. 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>.