



Summary Report	Near Fatality	11/13/2020
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Amendments to the information originally posted on 11/06/2020 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: 2-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 near fatality?

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On May 12, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old child who was taken to the hospital in critical condition after sustaining multiple injuries. The child was in the care of her legal guardian, Stephanie Sanchez, **and another adult, Lucenda Sanchez**, when she sustained the injuries. On May 28, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Stephanie Sanchez. **On November 9, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Lucenda Sanchez.**

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 reports involving the legal guardian, Stephanie Sanchez, in the preceding five years.

The child's biological parents were involved with the following prior reports:

On April 27, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by her biological mother. The allegations were substantiated and the family was referred for in-home services. While the case was open an additional report was received.

On May 15, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child by her biological parents. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was closed after the parents moved onto their tribe's reservation.



On March 21, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by their biological mother. The allegations were substantiated and the case was closed after the tribe took jurisdiction of the case.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Lucenda Sanchez.

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 near fatality:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the other children in the home being placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a licensed foster home. On May 28, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Stephanie Sanchez. **On November 9, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Lucenda Sanchez.**

A subsequent report was received on August 27, 2019, regarding allegations of neglect after the guardianship with Stephanie Sanchez was revoked and the biological parents' whereabouts were unknown. On September 25, 2019, a dependency petition was filed with the Yuma County Superior Court and the Department provided services until the family's tribe took jurisdiction of the case.

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 Yuma Police Department. The other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a licensed foster home. On May 28, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Stephanie Sanchez. **On November 9, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by Lucenda Sanchez.**



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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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, 2020.

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>.