

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

Summary Report Near Fatality	06/11/2024
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#### **1. Victim:** 8-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 near fatality?

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

On September 16, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an 8month-old child who was brought to the hospital with concerns of crossing the eyes and being inconsolable. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition, experiencing a low heart rate and seizure activity, requiring intubation. On September 20, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court alleging abuse and/or neglect to the near-fatality victim. On October 18, 2023, the court found the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, neglected the child by leaving him in the care of an inappropriate caregiver and that her inability to provide appropriate supervision caused substantial harm to the child.

### 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 prior to the September 16, 2023, near fatality incident. At the time of the near fatality incident, an investigation of the family was in progress based on a report dated September 12, 2023. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on September 15, 2023.

# 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?

The near-fatality victim and his mother, Jasmin Zazueta, were subjects of the September 12, 2023, report.

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:

The child's mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and father were involved in the following prior reports:



On January 13, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and the father. The allegations of neglect were substantiated as to both parents.

An additional report was received on April 2, 2022, alleging neglect to a child by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and other adults. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated to the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and other adults. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On December 21, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to the near-fatality victim by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. No services were offered to the family and the case was closed.

On September 12, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near-fatality victim by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred.

# 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 child being placed in licensed foster care after his release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. On October 18, 2023, the court found the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, neglected the child by leaving him in the care of an inappropriate caregiver and that her inability to provide appropriate supervision caused substantial harm to the child. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were 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

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# 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. Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in a licensed DDD foster home. There were no other children in the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and substantiated the allegations as to Jasmin Zazueta. Services are being provided. On October 18, 2023, the court found the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, neglected the child by leaving him in the care of an inappropriate caregiver and that her inability to provide appropriate supervision caused substantial harm to the child. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were 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.

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