



<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Near Fatality</b>	<b>6/4/2020</b>
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**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 November 29, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old female who was taken to the hospital after ingesting an unknown substance. The child was given two doses of Narcan due to breathing problems and was admitted to the pediatric ICU. It was later discovered the child possibly ingested fentanyl. The child was in the care of her parents, Angel Diaz and Michelle Carlson when the incident occurred. On December 9, 2019, the Department of Child Safety filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. On December 13, 2019, the court found through the dependency proceeding, Angel Diaz neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings. On March 30, 2020, the court found the dependency proceeding that Michelle Carlson neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings.

**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:**

The near fatality victim's parents, Michelle Carlson and Angel Diaz, were involved in the following within five years:

On August 2, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother, Michelle Carlson. The investigation assessed the children as safe with their mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The family was referred to services within the community.

On July 25, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Michelle Carlson. The child was assessed as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.



On August 4, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Michelle Carlson and their father, Angel Diaz. The child was assessed as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated 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 near fatality:**

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the child and her siblings being taken into custody. The Department filed a dependency petition on December 9, 2019, with the Maricopa County Superior Court and is providing services to the family. No subsequent reports have been made.

**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. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a kinship placement. The other children in the home were taken into custody and placed in a kinship placement. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on December 9, 2019. Services are being provided. No subsequent reports 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.

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



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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>.