



Summary Report	Near Fatality	4/19/2021
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1. Victim: 8-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 near fatality?

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

On November 3, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an eight-month-old child who was taken to the hospital in critical condition with suspicious injuries. Upon investigation, it was learned that an adult was shooting at quail that were in the area of the child. The child was struck by two of the BBs. The mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez waited several hours before transporting the child to the hospital. The mother also reported a false story about the injuries being caused by an unknown person shooting at them. On November 12, 2020, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez, was indicted for child abuse and tampering with evidence.

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:

DCS received the following prior reports involving Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez and/or the near fatality victim:

On April 20, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez. The investigation resulted in the child being removed. The Department filed a dependency petition and provided services to the family. The allegation of neglect was substantiated. The case was open when the next report was received.

On March 28, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by their mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case remained open while the family was participating in services. The case was open when the next report was received.



On February 9, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez. The investigation resulted in the child being removed. The Department filed a supplemental dependency petition and the child was placed in kinship foster care with their sibling, who was already in DCS custody. The allegation of neglect was substantiated.

On February 29, 2020, a report was received regarding neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez. The investigation assessed the child as safe with her mother and the allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. The mother successfully completed in-home services with the Department 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 incident resulted in the child's mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez, being indicted for child abuse and tampering with evidence. There were no other children in the home. Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in a licensed foster home. The Department intends to provide services to the family. There have been no subsequent reports 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 Mohave County Sheriff's Office. The child's mother, Marticella Lopez-Rodriguez, was indicted for child abuse and tampering with evidence. There were no other children in the home. Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in a licensed foster home. The Department intends to provide services to the family. There have been no subsequent reports received regarding this family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice firearm safety and always store all firearms unloaded, in a secure locked location.



ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

For additional information on firearm safety, please visit the Arizona Firearm Injury Prevention Coalition's website at: <http://www.afipc.org/afipc.html>.

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>.