

Summary Report	Near Fatality	03/31/2023
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1. Victim: one-year-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 August 30, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year old male who was taken to the hospital. Upon evaluation, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to fentanyl ingestion. On January 20, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales.

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:

Although no services were being provided to the family prior to the August 30, 2021 near fatality incident, the family was being investigated for an open report. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on May 26, 2021.

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, Stephanie Gonzales, were subjects of the May 24, 2021 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, Stephanie Gonzales, was involved in the following prior reports:

On July 24, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales. No services were provided to the family. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on September 29, 2020.

On May 24, 2021 the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging physical abuse of the near fatality victim by his mother, Stephanie Gonzales. An investigation was initiated and was still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations of physical abuse. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on January 24, 2022 in conjunction with the near fatality report.

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 report regarding the near fatality was investigated and the case was closed. The allegation of neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales, was substantiated.

On August 31, 2021, a subsequent report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother and another adult. These allegations were unsubstantiated. The near fatality victim and a sibling were assessed as safe in the care of their other parent. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on January 24, 2022 in conjunction with the near fatality report.

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 Chandler Police Department. The allegation of neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Stephanie Gonzales, was substantiated. On August 31, 2021, a subsequent report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother and another adult. These allegations were unsubstantiated. The near fatality victim and a sibling were assessed as safe in the care of their other parent. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on January 24, 2022.

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 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, 2023.