

Summary Report	Near Fatality	1/10/2023
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1. Victim: one-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 fatality?

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

On September 14, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year-old female who had been taken to the hospital and was determined to be in critical condition due to severe malnutrition. On September 16, 2022 the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. On November 22, 2022 the court ruled the parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo, medically neglected the near-fatality victim.

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:

The Department was in the process of referring the family for additional services as result of an open investigation for a report dated August 24, 2022. The report included allegations of neglect to the near fatality victim and her siblings by the parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo. A safety plan was implemented after the initial response to these allegations. The parents had agreed to participate with in-home services through the Department related to the May 29, 2022 report and the case was pending services when the near fatality report was received. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on September 13, 2022.

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?

Deseray Chavez, Joshua Trujillo, the near fatality victim, and 5 siblings were subjects of the August 24, 2022 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, Deseray Chavez, was involved in the following prior report:

On May 29, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the mother, Deseray Chavez. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was transferred to the in-home section for additional services and ongoing case management.

The child's parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo, were involved in the following prior reports:

On July 26, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On August 24, 2022, the Department received a report with allegations of neglect as to the near-fatality victim and the siblings in the home by Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo. The Department implemented a safety plan and was continuing efforts to further engage the family.

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 fatality:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the child being placed in licensed foster care upon her release from the hospital. The other children in the home were removed and placed with a relative. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on September 16, 2022. The family is being provided with services. On November 22, 2022, the court ruled the parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo, medically neglected the near fatality victim. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding this 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

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 is conducting a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed in a foster home. The Department also investigated a neglect report regarding the near fatality victim and her 5 siblings that was received prior to the near fatality report. The siblings were placed with a family member. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court for all of the children on September 16, 2022. On November 22, 2022 the Maricopa County Superior Court ruled that mother, Deseray Chavez, and father, Joshua Trujillo, medically neglected the near fatality victim. Services are being provided to the family. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 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.

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, 2023.

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>