

Summary Report	Near Fatality	04/29/2025
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1. Victim: 2-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 March 25, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-month-old female who was transported to the hospital by EMS after experiencing a seizure at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition. Hospital evaluations found bruising, a subdural hematoma, and retinal hemorrhaging; these injuries were diagnosed as non-accidental trauma. On January 13, 2025, the father, Joaquine Martinez Sr., pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse in the Apache County Superior Court related to the child's injuries. On March 25, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse by the father, Joaquine Martinez Sr.

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:

There were no prior DCS reports involving the near fatality victim.

The child's mother and father, Joaquine Martinez Sr., were involved in the following prior reports:

On June 8, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother and father, Joaquine Martinez Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The

family was provided information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On October 14, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and father, Joaquine Martinez Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided information on services available in the community 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 father, Joaquine Martinez Sr, pleading guilty to one count of child abuse related to the incident. The Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse by the father. The child and a sibling were assessed as safe in their mother's care. The Department provided services to the family and the case was closed on March 31, 2023.

A subsequent report involving the near fatality victim and a sibling was received on February 13, 2024, alleging physical abuse by the mother and the father, Joaquine Martinez Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The Department offered services, which the family declined, and the case was closed.

An additional report alleging neglect to the children by their mother was received on May 9, 2024. The Department made efforts to locate the family without success and the case was closed.

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 Apache County Sheriff's Office. The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the father, Joaquine Martinez Sr, pleading guilty to one count of child abuse related to the incident. The Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse pertaining to the father. The child and a sibling were assessed as safe in their mother's care. The Department provided services to the family and the case was closed on March 31, 2023.

A subsequent report involving the near fatality victim and a sibling was received on February 13, 2024, regarding allegations of physical abuse by the mother and the father, Joaquine Martinez Sr. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The Department offered services, which the family declined, and the case was closed.

An additional subsequent report alleging neglect to the children was received on May 9, 2024. The Department made efforts to locate the family without success and the case was closed.

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, 2025.