

Information for Release		4/17/2014
--------------------------------	--	-----------

Date of the notification to CPS: 1/17/2013

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 1/17/2013

Child's name: Christopher Morales

Age at time of incident: 2 Months

Perpetrator(s): Maria Morales

Age: 26

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and alleged perpetrator(s) were living in Chandler, Arizona.

A. Circumstances of the fatality or near fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On January 17, 2013, Chandler Police were called to the home of Maria Morales, mother to Christopher Morales, after Christopher was discovered deceased. Ms. Morales had reportedly placed Christopher in his car seat on the bed and then took a nap. Upon awakening, Ms. Morales found Christopher deceased. Ms. Morales' explanation of how Christopher died was not consistent with the condition of the body. The investigation determined the Ms. Morales neglected to provide Christopher with adequate supervision and safe sleeping conditions. It was further determined that this neglect led to Christopher's death.

B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian* :

The Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS) has received no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Christopher Morales by Maria Morales.

1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

The Division of Child Safety and Family Services (DCSFS) conducted a joint investigation with the Chandler Police Department.

2. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

The other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care.

3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

Services offered to the family include parent aide services, substance abuse treatment, counseling and supervised visitation.

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.