



Information for Release		7/1/15
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Date of the notification to DCS: 6/23/15

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 6/23/15

Child's name: Victoria Rivas

Age at time of incident: 2 years

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Sean Hughes – age 23

Heather Rivas – age 25

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Tucson, AZ

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

On June 23, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Victoria Rivas who drowned in the swimming pool where she lived. The pool was surrounded by a fence, but the gate was propped open. Detectives with the Pima County Sheriff's Department also found heroin and other drugs in the home. The child's father, Sean Hughes, was reported to be responsible for watching Victoria when the drowning occurred. He has been charged with second-degree murder and child abuse. Victoria's mother, Heather Rivas, was also home at the time of the incident and has been charged with child abuse.

Whether DCS 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*:

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglecting involving Victoria Rivas and/or Sean Hughes and Heather Rivas.

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

The Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Office of Child Welfare, is conducting a joint investigation with the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

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

There were no other children in the home.

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

Services will be determined pending the outcome of the investigation.

*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.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.