



Information for Release		5/26/2015
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Date of the notification to DCS: 5/23/2015

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 5/23/2015

Child's name: Alexandra Tercero

Age at time of incident: 3 years

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Rosemary Velazco – age 36

Carlos Tercero Cruz – age 29

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

Surprise, AZ

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

On May 23, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-year-old Alexandra Tercero who had been brought to the hospital and pronounced deceased. Alexandra was observed to have multiple lacerations and bruises all over her body. She was also severely underweight and very malnourished. Alexandra's parents, Rosemary Velazco and Carlos Tercero Cruz, have been arrested for 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 received the following prior report involving Alexandra Tercero and Rosemary Velazco and Carlos Tercero Cruz:

On May 31, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Alexandra when she and her mother tested positive for amphetamines at her birth. Alexandra and an older sibling were removed from the home and a dependency case was filed. The parents successfully completed substance abuse and parent aide services and were reunified with the children on April 9, 2012. The dependency was dismissed on June 18, 2012 and DCS closed the case on July 10, 2012.

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 Investigations, is conducting a joint investigation with the Surprise Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other sibling was removed and placed in a licensed foster 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.

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.