



Preliminary Report	Child Fatality	7/17/15
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- 1. Victim:** Briseyda Valdez-Balderas – 9-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 7/22/14
- 3. Date of fatality:** 7/22/14
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 6/24/15
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Gricelda Balderas – age 41 – Phoenix, AZ
Joel Valdez – age – age 42 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On July 22, 2014, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 9-year-old Briseyda Valdez-Balderas. The child had died due to a lack of treatment for a perforated colon that caused peritonitis. The DCS investigation determined that the parents, Gricelda Balderas and Joel Valdez, had failed to follow up with medical care when the child's symptoms worsened.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS has received no prior reports involving Briseyda Valdez-Balderas, Gricelda Balderas or Joel Valdez.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

The other children remain in the care of the parents.

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

The family was provided with services by the Department.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).