



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Preliminary Report	Fatality	12/28/15
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- 1. Victim:** Ezekial Castro – 4-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 11/2/15
- 3. Date of fatality:** 11/5/15
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 11/16/15
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Tucson, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Ashley Castro – age 31 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On November 2, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding four-year-old Ezekial Castro who had been admitted to the hospital on October 23, 2015 for vomiting, diarrhea, and elevated levels of sodium in his system. The child remained in the hospital and was stabilized when his sodium levels spiked again on November 2, 2015 causing multiple brain bleeds. The child did not survive and was pronounced deceased on November 5, 2015. On November 16, 2015, the child's mother, Ashley Castro, was charged by a Pima County grand jury with child abuse and first degree murder.

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 the following prior reports involving Ashley Castro and Ezekial Castro:

On August 18, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to Ezekial Castro by his mother, Ashley Castro, due to concerns regarding her ability to properly care for and meet his needs. The investigation assessed Ezekial as being safe with his parents and the allegation was unsubstantiated. The case was closed on January 11, 2012.

On April 22, 2013, a new report was received alleging neglect to Ezekial by his mother, Ashley Castro, due to concerns about his care. The investigation found the family was already receiving services to assist them in caring for Ezekial and it was determined no further intervention through DCS was needed. The case was closed on June 17, 2014.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Tucson Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed with relatives.

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

The Department is providing services to the family.



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