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| Preliminary Report | Fatality | 9/3/15 |
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- 1. Victim:** Geneviene Gonzales – 17-month-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 07/13/15
- 3. Date of fatality:** 07/12/15
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect:** 8/12/15
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Buckeye, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Valare Peralta – age 32 – Buckeye, AZ

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

On July 13, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of Geneviene Gonzales. Geneviene was involved in a three car accident in which mother was driving. Geneviene Gonzales and her mother, Valare Peralta, passed away at the scene. There was methamphetamine drug paraphernalia found in the vehicle. It is unknown if the child was properly restrained. The child's sibling was transported to the hospital. It was determined that Valare Peralta had significant amounts of methamphetamine in her system while driving the vehicle. The allegations have been substantiated.

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 two prior reports involving mother, Valare Peralta, Geneviene Gonzales and one sibling.

On July 5, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by mother, Valare Peralta. The investigation assessed the child as safe. The family set up a guardianship of the sibling with a family member. Community resources were provided to the family. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on September 1, 2009.

On February 24, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Geneviene by mother, Valare Peralta. The investigation assessed the child to be safe. The family was offered services by the Department, but declined. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on June 6, 2014.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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

The child's sibling was released from the hospital and is residing with a relative.

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

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

*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.