



<b>Preliminary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>5/5/16</b>
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- 1. Victim:** Savanna Nance – 2-day-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 6/24/15
- 3. Date of fatality:** 6/25/15
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect\*:** 5/2/16
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Maricopa County – Mesa, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Dennis Nance – age 28 – Mesa, AZ

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

On June 24, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-day-old Savanna Nance who was found unresponsive at home after co-sleeping with her father, Dennis Nance. The investigation determined that the father was under the influence of prescription pain medications when he fell asleep holding the baby on his chest in a reclining chair. The baby was later found wedged between the father and the chair and the Office of the Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death as probable asphyxia due to wedging. The Department substantiated the allegation that Dennis Nance neglected the baby by failing to provide a safe environment and adequate supervision when he fell asleep with her in the chair while under the influence of prescription medications.

**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 Dennis Nance and/or Savanna Nance.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the child's siblings were initially assessed as safe with the parents with a safety plan in place. A subsequent report was received on December 15, 2015 alleging neglect to the siblings by the parents. The investigation of this report resulted in the children being removed and placed in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and is providing services to the family.

**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.

\*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.



*Arizona Department of Child Safety*

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**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

\*\* 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.