



Preliminary Report	Child Fatality	9/10/15
---------------------------	-----------------------	----------------

- 1. Victim:** Zayden Garfias – 18-month-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 4/18/15
- 3. Date of fatality:** 4/18/15
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 8/24/15
- 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:**

Kira Garfias – age 32 – Mesa, AZ

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

On April 18, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning death of 18-month-old Zayden Garfias. The child had been in the care of his mother, Kira Garfias, when the incident occurred. The investigation determined that Zayden was able to access the home's pool through a window left open in the house. The allegation of neglect to Zayden by his mother has 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 three prior reports involving Kira Garfias and/or Zayden Garfias:

On April 13, 2010, a report was received alleging neglect to two siblings by Kira Garfias. The investigation assessed the children to be safe and it was determined that the family was not in need of additional services or interventions through the Department. The case was closed with the allegations unsubstantiated.

On July 7, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to Zayden and his siblings by Kira Garfias due to concerns regarding the condition of the home and the mother's ability to adequately care for the children. An investigation was initiated and was in progress when another report was received. The allegations in this report have since been unsubstantiated.

On December 17, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by Kira Garfias. An investigation was initiated and was in progress when the fatality occurred. The allegations in this report have since been unsubstantiated.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Mesa Police Department.

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

Following the initial assessment of child safety, the other children remained in the home.



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.

** 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.