



Summary Report	Fatality	1/28/16
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1. Victim: Amelia Gutierrez – 16-month-old female

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in her home when the following incident occurred:

On January 13, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 16-month-old Amelia Gutierrez who had been transported to the hospital with severe head and internal injuries. The injuries were determined to be non-accidental and resulted in Amelia's death on January 15, 2015. Amelia had been in the care of her mother's boyfriend, Adrian Moreno, when the injuries occurred and he has since been arrested and charged with first degree murder and child abuse. The Department also determined that the child's mother, Starlene McGowan, failed to protect Amelia by leaving her in the care of Adrian Moreno and failing to seek medical treatment for the child's obvious injuries.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

No services were being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

No.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

There has been no prior involvement of the child's parents with DCS.

The Department has received the following prior report involving Adrian Moreno:

On September 3, 2010, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by an unidentified perpetrator. The investigation determined the perpetrator to be Adrian Moreno and the allegation of physical abuse to the child was substantiated. The investigation also resulted in an additional allegation of neglect to Adrian Moreno's biological child which was substantiated. The case was closed January 20, 2012.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:



The investigation of the fatality resulted in the arrest of the mother's boyfriend, Adrian Moreno, on charges of first degree murder and child abuse. The Department's investigation also determined that the child's fatality was the result of abuse by Adrian Moreno and failure by her mother, Starlene McGown, to protect her and seek medical care. The allegations pertaining to each of them have been substantiated.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Phoenix Police Department. Adrian Moreno was arrested and charged with first degree murder and child abuse. The Department also determined that the fatality was the result of abuse by Adrian Moreno and the mother's failure to protect the child from him or seek medical treatment for her injuries. The allegations as to each of them have been substantiated.

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is September 1, 2016.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>.