



Summary Report	Fatality	8/20/15
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1. Victim: Victoria Rivas – 2-year-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 June 23, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 2-year-old Victoria Rivas who drowned in the swimming pool where she lived. The pool was surrounded by a fence, but the gate was propped open. Detectives with the Pima County Sheriff's Department also found heroin and other drugs in the home. The child's father, Sean Hughes, was reported to be responsible for watching Victoria when the drowning occurred. He has been charged with second-degree murder and child abuse. Victoria's mother, Heather Rivas, was also home at the time of the incident and has been charged with child abuse.

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:

The child and her parents, Sean Hughes and Heather Rivas, have no prior involvement with the Department of Child Safety.

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:

A joint investigation of the drowning fatality was conducted with the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The child's father, Sean Hughes, was charged with second-degree murder and child abuse. The child's mother, Heather Rivas, was charged with child abuse. There were no other children in the home and no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.



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:

A Fatality/Near Fatality Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) reviewed the case and determined that the investigation of the fatality report was conducted in accordance with DCS policy and procedure. No changes to policy or practice were recommended as a result of the review.

The review also determined the incident was preventable if the child had adequate supervision. The Department reminds all caregivers to always watch children around water and follow the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Pool Safety Recommendations.

For more information, please visit the ADHS website at:

http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/oeh/pool_rules.htm