



Summary Report	Fatality	1/28/16
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1. Victim: Zayden Garfias – 18-month-old male

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 his home when the following incident occurred:

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.

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:

Although no services were being provided prior to the April 18, 2015 fatality report, the family was being investigated for open reports dated July 7, 2014 and December 17, 2014. The last date of contact the Department of Child Safety had with the family was on January 8, 2015. The children were assessed as safe and the case remained open pending the completion of all required interviews and entry of documentation.

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?

Zayden Garfias, Kira Garfias, and other members of the family were subjects of the July 7, 2014 and December 17, 2014 reports.

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's mother, Kira Garfias, was involved in the following:

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.



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 report resulted in the Department substantiating the allegation of neglect as to the mother, Kira Garfias. The other children in the home were assessed as safe and the Department began providing services to the family. A subsequent report was received on August 5, 2015 alleging neglect to the siblings by their parents. The siblings were placed with a relative and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations were substantiated and the Department is providing services to the family.

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 substantiated the allegation of neglect as to Zayden's mother, Kira Garfias, and began providing services to the family. A subsequent report was received on August 5, 2015 and the Department placed the siblings with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court and the Department continues to provide services.

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.

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



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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>.