

Information for Release		9/12/2013
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**Date of the notification to CPS:** 9/2/2013

**Near Fatality**

**The date the child suffered the near fatality:** 9/2/2013

**Child's name:** Joshua

**Age at time of incident:** 1 Year

**Perpetrator(s):** Bryan Barker, Diana Noncheva

**Age:** 29, 23

**City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s):** At the time of the incident, the child and alleged perpetrator(s) were living in Tucson, Arizona.

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

On September 2, 2013, Joshua was brought in to the hospital emergency department in Tucson. The mother, Diana Noncheva was at work and Joshua was in the boyfriend's (Bryan Barker) care. Bryan Barker admitted that he had "dropped him," (Joshua) but didn't provide any further details. Joshua was unconscious and unresponsive, but was breathing on his own upon arrival at the hospital. Upon examination it was noted that there was a lot of aging bruising around his left eye and occipital area that was yellow and bluish-yellow. There were also abrasions around his chin, older bruising on both of his upper arms and some significant bruising on the left side of his head. The attending physician stated that Joshua showed signs of a severe, significant head injury and does not believe that the injury occurred just that day. Bryan Barker and Diana Noncheva were arrested on September 3, 2013 and charged with child abuse.

**B. Whether CPS has received any reports or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian\* :**

Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) has received one prior report alleging abuse or neglect of Joshua Souter by Diana Noncheva.

On November 21, 2012 a report was made to CPS alleging that the mother, Diana Noncheva and a male engaged in domestic violence and that the male had been observed hitting the mother while she was holding Joshua. The mother also allegedly would ask neighbors, whom she does not know, to watch her baby for a ½ hour at a time. This report remains open.

**1. Actions taken by CPS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:**

The Office of Child Welfare Investigations (OCWI), assisted by Arizona Child Protective Services (CPS) is conducting a joint investigation with the Tucson Police Department.

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

The other children in the home were removed and placed in foster care.

**3. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:**

Services will be determined following the outcome of the investigation.

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\*Posted information provides whether there have been reports or any current or past cases of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.