



Information for Release	AMENDED	10/20/2014
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Date of the notification to DCS: 7/9/2014

Child Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 3/25/2012

Child's name: Makayla Sanchez

Age at time of incident: 3 years old

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Matthew Cisneros – age 24

Anna Marie Sanchez – age 28

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Thatcher, AZ

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

In July 2014, the Department of Child Safety learned of the disappearance of Makayla Sanchez who had not been seen since 2012. An investigation was initiated and Makayla's remains were found buried in the yard of a residence where she lived in 2012. Her mother's boyfriend, Matthew Cisneros, also lived in the home at that time. An autopsy found that Makayla suffered several blunt force injuries including broken ribs and a fractured skull. The medical examiner's office has ruled her death as a homicide. On September 18, 2014, Matthew Cisneros was charged with first degree murder and child abuse. On October 14, 2014, Anna Sanchez, mother to Makayla, was also charged in relation to her death. Charges included two counts of child abuse and one count of abandonment/concealment of a dead body.

Whether DCS 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*:

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglect involving Makayla Sanchez and Matthew Cisneros or Anna Sanchez.

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

The Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, is conducting a joint investigation with the Thatcher 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:

The Department is providing services to the siblings.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Charles Flanagan
Director

*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).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.