



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	7/23/15
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 17-year-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 6/5/15

3. Date of near fatality: 6/3/15

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 6/15/15

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Yuma County

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Elizabeth Garcia – age 40 – Yuma County

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

On June 5, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 17-year-old female who had been admitted to the hospital in critical condition due to extremely high blood sugar levels. The investigation determined that the child's medical needs had been neglected by her mother, Elizabeth Garcia, and she almost died as a result. The allegations of neglect were substantiated by the Department on 6/15/15.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS has received the following prior reports alleging neglect to the child by Elizabeth Garcia:

On December 7, 2005, a report was received alleging the child was responsible for managing her medical needs, but was not capable of doing so without supervision. The investigation determined that the child's mother was capable of meeting her needs and the family was not in need of further intervention or services. The case was closed on January 13, 2006 with the allegations unsubstantiated.

On February 13, 2008, a report was received alleging the mother's care of the child's medical needs has been declining and placing her at high risk for complications. The child was voluntarily removed from the mother while the Department provided services to support the mother's ability to care for her. The child was eventually returned and the case was closed on May 13, 2010 with the allegations unsubstantiated.

On February 19, 2014, a report was received alleging concerns regarding the management of the child's medical needs. The child had been hospitalized despite previous education on managing her needs. An investigation was initiated and in progress when a new report was received.

On April 21, 2014, a report was received alleging concerns for the mother's ability to follow through on the child's medical needs. The Department and other community and medical providers remained involved with the family until they demonstrated the ability to understand and meet the child's needs. The February 19 and April 21, 2014 reports were closed on April 16, 2015 with the allegations unsubstantiated.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the near fatality:

The Department of Child Safety completed a thorough investigation. Law enforcement was not involved.



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

Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed with a relative. The other child residing in the home was determined to be safe in the care of the mother.

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

DCS is providing services to the family.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.