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| Preliminary Report | Near Fatality | 7/24/15 |
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1. Near Fatality Victim: 2-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 5/1/15

3. Date of near fatality: 5/1/15

4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 7/7/15

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Peoria, AZ

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

Manuel Zeschitz – age 25 – Peoria, AZ

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

On May 1, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old male child who had been admitted to the hospital in critical condition after accidentally shooting himself in the face. The DCS investigation found that the child had been in the care of his father, Manuel Zeschitz, who failed to provide adequate supervision and a safe home environment to the child. The allegation of neglect to the child by his father was substantiated by the Department on July 7, 2015.

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 no prior reports involving the child or Manuel Zeschitz.

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

A joint investigation is being conducted with the Peoria Police Department.

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

Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed in a licensed foster home. The other child residing in the home was placed with a relative.

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.