



Preliminary Report	Near Fatality	9/17/15
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- 1. Near Fatality Victim:** 1-year-old male
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 7/13/15
- 3. Date of near fatality:** 7/13/15
- 4. Date of determination that the near fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 8/5/15
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Tucson, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Paul Mendoza – age 21 – Tucson, AZ
Brittany Pfister – age 24 – Tucson, AZ

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

On July 13, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year-old male child who had been brought to the hospital after being found unconscious and unresponsive at home. Tests revealed bilateral chronic head bleeds and retinal hemorrhaging. It was determined that the injuries were caused by non-accidental trauma. On August 5, 2015, the child's stepfather, Paul Mendoza, was charged with child abuse. It was also determined that the child's mother, Brittany Pfister, physically abused the child or permitted another person to physically abuse him.

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 involving Paul Mendoza, Brittany Pfister, and/or the near fatality victim:

On May 25, 2012, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child who had been in the care of an unknown perpetrator, later identified to be Paul Mendoza. The allegation was unsubstantiated as to the unknown perpetrator.

On December 12, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim by Brittany Pfister, the child's father, and/or an unidentified perpetrator. The child had been found to have a healing rib fracture during a hospitalization for whooping cough. An investigation was initiated and the child was forensically examined. Although physicians indicated the injury was suspicious, explanations provided by the family and the possibility that the injury was caused by the whooping cough could not be ruled out. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case remained open pending the completion of all required documentation.

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

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

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

Following a safety assessment, the child and a sibling were placed with the other parent.



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

The Department 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.