



Summary Report	Near Fatality	12/21/15
-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------

1. Near Fatality Victim: 19-month-old male

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the near fatality?

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On April 8, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 19-month-old Caleb who was brought to the hospital in critical condition after being in the care of his mother's boyfriend, Matthew Romeo Sanchez. Caleb was found to have significant injuries including brain bleeds and bruising to his face and body. Physicians determined that the injuries were inconsistent with accidental trauma and Matthew Sanchez was arrested for felony child abuse. It was also determined that the child's mother, Shante Preciado, neglected the child by failing to protect him from abuse.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:

Although no services were being provided prior to the April 8, 2015 near fatality incident, the family was being investigated by the Department for two open reports dated March 10 and 26, 2015. The Phoenix Police Department and Phoenix Children's Hospital were also involved in the investigations. The victim was last seen by DCS on March 27, 2015 when he was assessed as being safe in the care of his father.

b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?

The child and his mother, Shante Preciado, were subjects of two open reports dated March 10 and 26, 2015.

c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:

There has been no prior involvement of Matthew Sanchez with DCS. The child's father and his mother, Shante Preciado, were involved in the following:

On May 24, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to two of the child's half-siblings by the father. The investigation assessed the children to be safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on available community resources and the case was closed.

On March 10, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by Shante Preciado, his father, and his stepmother. Shante Preciado had taken him to the pediatrician where he was observed to have small bruises and scratches in different stages of healing on his back.



The pediatrician noted that the injuries did not require medical attention, but there were concerns that the child was being injured while visiting at his father's home. A forensic exam determined that the bruising was consistent with child-sized bite marks as reported by the family. The investigation was still open when a second report was received. The allegations have since been unsubstantiated.

On March 26, 2015, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the child. The child's father brought him to Phoenix Children's Hospital after picking him up from a babysitter and seeing multiple bruises and burns. The investigation remained open with both the Phoenix Police Department and DCS when the near fatality occurred. The allegations have since been unsubstantiated.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the near fatality:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in Matthew Sanchez being arrested for felony child abuse. The Department also determined that the child's mother, Shante Preciado, failed to protect him from abuse. The allegations pertaining to each of them were substantiated by the Department. The child and a sibling have been placed with relatives and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. Services are being provided to the family and no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect have been received.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department placed the child and a sibling with relatives and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. Services are being provided to the family and the allegations pertaining to the child's mother, Shante Preciado, and her boyfriend, Matthew Sanchez, were substantiated.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Gregory McKay
Director

Additionally, in accordance with the DCS Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), multidisciplinary team (MDT) reviews of fatality and near fatality cases were implemented during the first quarter of FY16. The MDT reviews of fatality and near fatality cases, especially those with prior DCS involvement, are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and support the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

This case was reviewed by the MDT in order to identify any systemic factors, both internal and external to the Department that may have had an impact. The Department is using the aggregate data gathered through all of the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules or statutes. Findings from these reviews will be compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of this report is September 1, 2016.

For more information regarding the Department of Child Safety's Strategic Plan for State Fiscal Year 2016, please visit the DCS website at: <https://dcs.az.gov/news/dcs-strategic-plan>