



| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Summary Report | Near Fatality | 1/28/16 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|

1. Near Fatality Victim: 2-year-old female

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 her home when the following incident occurred:

On August 26, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a two-year-old girl who was brought to the hospital due to having a seizure. Upon examination, the child was found to have a potentially lethal amount of Acetaminophen (Tylenol) in her system. The child's mother, Alejandra Esquivias, was arrested for felony child 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 to the family prior to the August 26, 2015 near fatality incident, the family was being investigated for a report dated April 22, 2015. The last date of contact the Department of Child Safety had with the family was on April 24, 2015. The children were assessed as safe and the Department offered to provide daycare services. The case remained open pending completion of the daycare referral. However, the mother did not respond to repeated attempts to follow-up and the case remained open when the near fatality occurred.

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, her mother Alejandra Esquivias, and the child's siblings were subjects of the April 22, 2015 report.

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:

DCS has received the following prior reports involving Alejandra Esquivias and the near fatality victim:

On January 24, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the child and her siblings by Alejandra Esquivias and their father. The concerns involved the parents engaging in domestic violence in the presence of the children. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Alejandra Esquivias. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on March 5, 2015.

On April 22, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the child and her siblings and physical abuse to one of the siblings by Alejandra Esquivias. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred.



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 the removal of all of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Juvenile Court and services are being provided to the family. 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 conducted an investigation resulting in the removal of the children from the home. A dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Superior Court and the Department is providing services to the family.

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>.