



Summary Report	Near Fatality	1/12/16
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**1. Near Fatality Victim:** 2-week-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 May 25, 2015, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-week-old baby who had been taken to the hospital in critical condition by his parents. According to the parents, the baby's breathing became abnormal and his eyes swelled shut after he accidentally hit his head on a changing table. Attending physicians noted that the injuries were inconsistent with the explanation provided and observed the child to have bleeding in the brain, bruises and abrasions on his left cheek, leg and arm and a broken skin bite mark on his right hand. The baby's father, Anthony Estrada, has been arrested for 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:**

The Department was in the process of referring the family for services due to the investigation of an open report dated May 11, 2015. The report concerned the baby being born substance-exposed to marijuana. The baby's parents had agreed to participate in the Department's Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment (SENSE) program which includes intensive in-home services, substance abuse counseling, and participation with Healthy Families Arizona. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on May 17, 2015.

**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 baby and his mother were the subjects of the May 11, 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:**

The child's parents were involved in the following:

On December 9, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a newborn sibling by the child's mother. The baby was born premature at 25 weeks and died before leaving the hospital. The case remained open pending the completion of necessary documentation when another report was received. The allegation has since been unsubstantiated.

On May 11, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his mother after he was born substance-exposed to marijuana. The Department was in the process of referring the family to the SENSE program when the near fatality 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 into the near fatality resulted in the child's father, Anthony Estrada, being arrested for child abuse. Upon release from the hospital, the Department placed the child with a foster family and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The Department is providing services to the child and his mother. The allegations pertaining to Anthony Estrada have been substantiated.

**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 a joint investigation with the Tempe Police Department who arrested the child's father, Anthony Estrada, for child abuse. Upon release from the hospital, the Department placed the child in a foster home and filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The Department is providing services to the child and his mother. The allegations of physical abuse and neglect pertaining to Anthony Estrada have been substantiated.

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.



*Arizona Department of Child Safety*

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**Douglas A. Ducey**  
Governor

**Gregory McKay**  
Director

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>