



Information for Release		10/28/2014
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Date of the notification to DCS: 5/20/2014

Near Fatality

Date of fatality or near fatality: 5/20/2014

Child's name: Nehimiah

Age at time of incident: 6 weeks old

Alleged perpetrator(s) name and age:

Silvianna Mendibles – age 29

Phillip Lee – age 32

City, town or general location of residence of the child and alleged perpetrator(s):

Tucson, AZ

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

On May 20, 2014, a report was received regarding six-week-old Nehimiah who was brought to the hospital after his caregiver, Silivanna Mendibles, noticed he was acting differently. Nehimiah was diagnosed with a brain injury and bilateral retinal hemorrhaging. Further testing found both old and new hemorrhages in the left retina. It was determined that Nehimiah's injuries were both life-threatening and non-accidental. On August 19, 2014, a grand jury charged both Silvianna Medibles and Phillip Lee with child abuse.

Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian*:

DCS has received no prior reports of abuse or neglect of Nehimiah by Silvianna Mendibles or Phillip Lee.

1. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality or near fatality of the child including:

The Department of Child Safety, in conjunction with the Office of Child Welfare Investigations, is conducting a joint investigation with the Tucson Police Department.

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

Upon release from the hospital, Nehimiah was placed in a foster home. The other child in the home was removed and placed with a relative.

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

The Department of Child Safety is providing services to the family.



Arizona Department of Child Safety

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Charles Flanagan
Director

*Posted information provides whether there have been reports, or any current or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child who has died or suffered a near fatality and the current alleged abusive or neglectful parent, guardian or custodian pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807(F)(2)(a)(iv).

*Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

Information, if any, regarding the child and other family or household members, not specifically related to the fatality or near fatality, is not posted on the website. This also applies to information, if any, regarding the alleged perpetrator(s) and other family or household members.