

Information for Release		4/8/2013
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Date of the notification to CPS: 3/14/2013

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 3/14/2013

Child's name: Valerie Frias

Age at time of incident: 18 Months

Perpetrator(s): Clifton L. Jones

Age: 34 years old

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): At the time of the incident, the child and alleged perpetrator were living in Florence, Arizona.

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

On March 14, 2013 a 911 call was made from a male at the home of Clifton Jones, Valerie Frias' uncle, who was caring for the child, requesting an ambulance due to a one year old child's eyes rolling back into her head. Valerie was airlifted to Phoenix Children's Hospital where hospital staff reported suspicions of child abuse. Valerie reportedly had bilateral retinal hemorrhaging, a hematoma and a brain bleed and there was blood in her stomach. A skeletal survey could not be completed due to the child being unstable and on a ventilator. On March 15, 2013 Valerie was pronounced dead. Clifton Jones was arrested and charged with manslaughter.

B. Whether CPS 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* :

Arizona CPS had no prior reports alleging abuse or neglect of Valerie Frias by Clifton Jones.

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

Arizona CPS is conducting a joint investigation with Florence Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were determined to be safe in the home with the parents.

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

Services will be determined following completion of the investigation.

*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).

Information, if any, regarding other family or household members and the child or the alleged perpetrator is not posted on the Web site. Calls to the Child Abuse Hotline that do not meet the criteria of a report because they do not contain allegations of abuse or neglect (or because there is no information provided to locate the child or family) are not posted.