

Information for Release		1/18/2012
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Date of the notification to CPS: 1/12/2012

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 1/12/2012

Child's name: Za'Naya Flores

Age at time of incident: 1 Year

Perpetrator(s): Kiyana Higgins

Age: 23

City, town or general location of residence of the child and perpetrator(s): Both child and perpetrator were residing in Tucson at the time of the incident.

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

On the morning of Jan. 12, 2012, it was reported that Za'Naya Flores had a seizure. The mother, Kiyana, called 911 and Za'Naya was transported to the hospital via ambulance. While at the hospital, Za'Naya coded and was pronounced dead. The child had multiple injuries including bruises, burn marks, scratches, bite marks and scars throughout her body. Additionally, there were significant concerns regarding the child's weight and overall nutrition.

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* :

CPS had one prior report alleging abuse or neglect of Za'Naya Flores by Kiyana Higgins.

On March 15, 2010, a report was made when Kiyana Higgins gave birth to Za'Naya Flores. The concern was that the mother was in the custody of Pima County Jail at that time due to felony child abuse charges.

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

CPS is conducting a joint investigation with the Tucson Police Department.

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

CPS has taken custody of three siblings and placed them in foster care and is carefully monitoring another sibling to ensure safety.

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

The investigation is ongoing; whether services will be provided will be determined at its conclusion.

*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.