

Information for Release

3/25/2011

Date of the notification to CPS: 3/11/2011

Fatality

The date the child suffered the fatality: 3/11/2011

Child's name: Janie Buelna

Age at time of incident: 22 Months

Perpetrator(s): Juanita Rodriguez, 44; Humelio Vasquez, 33; Christopher Lopez, 37.

Age: See above

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

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

On March 11, 2011, Janie was found unresponsive at home and taken to the hospital. At the hospital, she was found to have numerous recent and older injuries believed to have been inflicted from non-accidental trauma. Janie did not survive.

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 received one prior report in March 2010 alleging abuse of Janie by Juanita Rodriguez. This report included allegations that Juanita had been overheard slapping Janie and Janie was observed with swelling and bruising to her eye and forehead. CPS responded to the report the same day it was received, but the grandmother and children were not home. A business card was left with Mr. Lopez, who identified himself as a family member. A second visit to the home was made the next day at 8 a.m. and no one answered the door. Another visit was made at 10 a.m. Ms. Rodriguez was home but reported the children were not in the home at the time. Ms. Rodriguez reported the allegation was untrue. Ms. Rodriguez reported Janie was now with her mother who was concerned about CPS being involved. One week later, Ms. Rodriguez contacted the investigator indicating the child and parent were back in her home. The child was observed and no injuries or other evidence of abuse or neglect were identified.

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

A joint investigation is in process with the Phoenix Police Department.

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

A sibling, also living in the home, has been taken into CPS custody.

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

Services will be provided to the sibling following a thorough assessment of the child's needs and

circumstances.

*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.