

<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>05/10/2024</b>
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**1. Victim:** Brian Mejia 7-month-old male

**2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?**

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

On March 31, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 7-month-old Brian Mejia who was brought to the hospital by his mother and significant other with no pulse. He was later pronounced deceased at the hospital due to a severe head injury and multiple skull fractures. On April 18, 2024, the child's mother, Tina Mejia, and significant other, Jacob Gano, were indicted on charges of first-degree murder and 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:**

There were no services being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

**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?**

No.

**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 mother, Tina Mejia, and her boyfriend, Jacob Gano, were involved in the following prior report:

On December 11, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Jacob Gano. No services were offered to the family and the case was closed on February 13, 2023.

On February 20, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to children by their mother and father, Jacob Gano. The children were taken into DCS custody and a dependency petition was filed. The family was offered reunification services. The children were returned to their mother's care on January 28, 2024, and the dependency was dismissed on March 12, 2024.

On September 1, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the fatality victim. The allegations were unsubstantiated as to Tina Mejia. The family was referred to in-home services and a safety plan was put into place with responsible adults. The safety plan was lifted on December 15, 2023, and the case closed on March 13, 2024.

**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 fatality:**

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's mother, Tina Mejia, and her significant other, Jacob Gano, being indicted on charges of first-degree murder and child abuse for Brian's death. There were no other children in their home and the investigation was closed on April 19, 2024. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

**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 Glendale Police Department. On April 18, 2024, the child's mother, Tina Mejia, and significant other, Jacob Gano, were indicted on charges of first-degree murder and child abuse. There were no other children in their home

and the investigation was closed on April 19, 2024. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

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 fatality and near fatality cases with prior DCS involvement, which are a key feature of the Strategic Plan and supports the objective of increasing the accuracy of safety and risk assessments in investigations.

Cases are 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 uses 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 are compiled into an annual report to be shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2024.