Preliminary Report	Fatality	09/09/2025

1. Victim: Zeevah Montoya – 1-year-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 02/13/2025

3. Date of fatality: 02/03/2025

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 09/03/2025

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Navajo County – Show Low, AZ

6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:

Adam Montoya– age 27 – Show Low, AZ

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

On February 13, 2025, the Department of Child Safety received a report that 1-year-old Zeevah Montoya was shot and killed in her home approximately one week prior to the report. On February 11, 2025, the child's father, Adam Montoya, was indicted by a Navajo County Grand Jury on charges of second-degree murder and child abuse in relation to Zeevah's death.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS received the following prior report involving Adam Montoya:

> On July 30, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Adam Montoya. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The child was assessed as safe with a family member who had obtained emergency custody of the child in family court. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

DCS received the following prior report involving Zeevah Montoya:

> On January 7, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect to Zeevah Montoya by her mother. The allegations were unsubstantiated. There were no services provided to the family and the case was closed.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation was conducted with the Show Low Police Department.

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

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There were no other children in the home at the time of the fatality report.

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

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.

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