Summary Report	Fatality	09/09/2025

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

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 her home when the following incident occurred:

> 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.

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 father, Adam Montoya, was involved in the following prior report:

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

The child's mother was involved in the following prior report:

P.O. Box 6030 ♦ Site Code C010-23 ♦ Phoenix, AZ 85005-6030
Telephone (602) 255-2500

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.

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 report regarding the fatality was investigated and the case was closed. The allegations of neglect to Zeevah by her mother were unsubstantiated and the allegations of neglect by her father, Adam Montoya, are pending. There were no other children in the home at the time of the fatality report.

A subsequent report of neglect involving a newborn sibling was received on March 13, 2025. The child was assessed as safe in their mother's care, the family was provided with information on services available in the community, and the case was closed.

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 the Show Low Police Department. The child's father, Adam Montoya, was indicted on second degree murder and child abuse charges in relation to Zeevah Montoya's death. The allegations of neglect to Zeevah by her mother were unsubstantiated and the allegations of neglect by her father, Adam Montoya, are pending. There were no other children in the home at the time of the fatality report.

A subsequent report of neglect involving a newborn sibling was received on March 13, 2025, while the investigation regarding the fatality was still open. The sibling was assessed as safe

in their mother's care, the family was provided with information on services available in the community, and the case was closed.

Additionally, in accordance with A.R.S. § 8-469, cases with prior involvement with the Department within 3 years of the critical incident are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team selects cases that present opportunities for systemic learning or that demonstrate opportunities for systemic change. The Department uses the aggregate data gathered through the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules, or statutes to improve the quality of outcomes for children and families receiving services from the department. Findings from these reviews are compiled into an annual report which is shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2025.

P.O. Box 6030 ♦ Site Code C010-23 ♦ Phoenix, AZ 85005-6030
Telephone (602) 255-2500