Preliminary Report	Fatality	09/23/25

1. Victim: Andres Ortega – 8-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 03/04/2024

3. Date of fatality: 03/13/2024

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 09/17/2025

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Greenlee County – Morenci, AZ

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

Steven Ortega – age 29 – Morenci, AZ

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

On March 4, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 8-year-old Andres Ortega, who was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The child was unrestrained in the vehicle being driven by his father, Steven Ortega. The child was transported to the hospital, where he passed away on March 13, 2024, due to his injuries. On August 20, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Andres by his father, Steven Ortega.

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):**

There were no prior DCS reports involving Andres Ortega.

DCS received the following prior report involving Steven Ortega:

> On February 7, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their stepfather, Steven Ortega. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Greenlee County Sherriff's Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe in the care of their parents.

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

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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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