Preliminary Report	Fatality	03/06/2026

1. Victim: Andres Lopez – 9-month-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 11/05/24

3. Date of fatality: 11/05/24

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 03/04/26

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Pima County – Tucson, AZ

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

Gabriel Huerta Jr – age 19 – Tucson, AZ

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

On November 5, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 9-month-old Andres Lopez, who had been shot by his father. The child was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. On April 7, 2025, the child's father, Gabriel Huerta Jr, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree murder and one count of kidnapping.

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 Lopez or Gabriel Huerta Jr.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

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

There were no other children in the home.

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

There were no services provided by the Department.

*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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