Preliminary Report	Fatality	01/14/2026

Amendments to the information originally posted on 08/26/2025 are displayed below in red.

1. **Victim:** Austin Lahay– 1-year-old male

2. **Date of notification to DCS:** 11/1/2023

3. **Date of fatality:** 11/4/2023

4. **Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:**
Cassey Hay- 8/20/2025
Nathaniel Gettler- 1/7/2026

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:**

Cassey Hay – age 28 – Tucson, AZ
Nathaniel Gettler – age 31 – Tucson, AZ

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

On November 1, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-year-old Austin Lahay, who was brought to the hospital after being found unresponsive in his home. Upon examination, multiple injuries were discovered indicating non-accidental trauma. The child ultimately died due to his injuries. The medical examiner determined the child suffered from blunt force injuries causing his death. On June 16, 2025, Cassey Hay pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse- domestic violence in relation to the fatality of her son. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 12 years of standard probation following her release. On December 18, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Austin by his mother, Cassey Hay, and stepfather, Nathaniel Gettler.

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 reports involving Cassey Hay:

> On May 24, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother, Cassey Hay. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the home and placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with Pinal County Superior Court and the allegations were substantiated. The parents failed to remedy the circumstances that brought the child into care. Parental rights were severed and the child was adopted. The case closed on September 27, 2022.

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On April 12, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Cassey Hay. After an investigation, the allegation was unsubstantiated. The case was closed on June 16, 2023.

On October 18, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Cassey Hay. The Department was making efforts to locate the family when the near fatality report was received on November 1, 2023.

DCS received the following prior report involving Nathaniel Gettler:

On November 15, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect of children by Nathaniel Gettler and other adults. The Department made attempts to locate the family. The family could not be located. The case was closed on December 28, 2021.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Tucson Police Department.

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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