Preliminary Report	Fatality	08/13/2025

1. Victim: Ezra Mejia – 9-year-old male

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

3. Date of fatality: 04/03/2024

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 08/06/2025

5. County and general location of the residence of the victim: Maricopa County – Phoenix, AZ

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

Cecilia Mendez Taboada – age 32 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On April 3, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a motor vehicle accident involving several children that were not properly restrained. The accident resulted in the fatality of two children, Ezra Mejia and Remy Rosales, and the near fatality of two of their siblings. The investigation resulted in a determination that the accident was caused when the children's mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada, fell asleep while driving. On July 15, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect and physical abuse to Ezra Mejia and his siblings by their mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada.

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 Ezra Mejia and Cecilia Mendez Taboada:

On March 5, 2022, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Ezra Mejia, by his mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada. 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 Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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 being safe with their parents.

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

P.O. Box 6030 ♦ Site Code C010-23 ♦ Phoenix, AZ 85005-6030
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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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