Preliminary Report	Fatality	09/09/2025

1. Victim: Mariah Savard– 2-year-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 08/09/2023

3. Date of fatality: 08/08/2023

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 09/03/2025

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

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

Lance Savard – age 27 – Yuma, AZ

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

On August 9, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 2-year-old Mariah Savard. On August 8, 2023, Mariah was found submerged in the pool after being left unsupervised while in her father's care and was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. On April 8, 2025, the father, Lance Savard, was indicted by a Yuma County Grand Jury on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and child abuse in relation to her death.

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 Lance Savard:

On February 13, 2008, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the parents' custody and a dependency petition was filed with the juvenile court. The parents were provided with reunification services, and the child was returned to Lance Savard's custody in December 2009. The allegations were substantiated, and the case was closed.

On December 9, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. The report also included allegations of physical abuse to the child by their mother. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

On October 19, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their father, Lance Savard. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

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On February 22, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Yuma Police 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 being safe in their parents' care.

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

The Department offered services to the family, which the family declined.

*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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