Preliminary Report	Fatality	02/11/2026

1. Victim: Nia Martin – 1-month-old female

2. Date of notification to DCS: 05/31/24

3. Date of fatality: 05/31/24

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 2/4/26

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:

Keara Lee – age 25 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On May 31, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report the fatality of 1-month-old Nia Martin, who was found unresponsive after co-sleeping with a sibling. The child was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. On January 26, 2026, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the child's mother, Keara Lee.

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 Ms. Lee:

> On November 3, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect of a child by Ms. Lee. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on January 10, 2023.
>
> On April 5, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect to Nia by Ms. Lee. The child were assessed as safe. The investigation was open when the fatality report was received. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the Phoenix 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 initially assessed as safe in the home. The family was referred for services, but the siblings were later removed from the home and placed into DCS custody with an unlicensed caregiver until they reunified with their parents in March 2025.

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

The Department provided services to the family.

*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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