Preliminary Report	Fatality	08/25/2025

1. Victim: Santos Noriega – 3-year-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 02/26/25

3. Date of fatality: 02/26/25

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 08/20/25

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:

Anthony Noriega – age 23 – Tucson, AZ

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

On February 26, 2025, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-year-old Santos Noriega who was transported to the hospital due to a gunshot wound. The child had accidentally shot himself after finding an unsecured gun in the father's home. On July 23, 2025, the child's father, Anthony Noriega pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter due to the fatality incident.

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 Anthony Noriega or Santos Noriega.

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

A joint investigation was conducted with the South Tucson Police Department.

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

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as safe with the other parent.

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

The Department's investigation is pending and no services have been provided at this time.

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*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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