Preliminary Report	Fatality	10/22/2025

1. Victim: Zayan Mendez-Pizarro – 11-month-old male

2. Date of notification to DCS: 12/15/2023

3. Date of fatality: 12/17/2023

4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*: 10/15/25

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:

Brian Mendez – age 29 – Phoenix, AZ

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

On December 15, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning of an 11-month-old child in a bathtub. The child was transported to the hospital, where he passed away a few days later. On September 24, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the child's father, Brian Mendez.

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 Brian Mendez.

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:

The other children in the home were assessed as safe in the care of their parents.

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.

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