Summary Report	Fatality	01/14/2026

Amendments to the information originally posted on 08/26/2025 are displayed below in red.

1. Victim: Austin Lahay– 1-year-old male

2. Was the child residing in the child's home or in an out-of-home placement at the time of the fatality?

The child was residing in his home when the following incident occurred:

> On November 1, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-year-old Austin Lahay, who was brought to the hospital after being found unresponsive in his home. Upon examination, multiple injuries were discovered indicating non-accidental trauma. The child ultimately died due to his injuries. The medical examiner determined the child suffered from blunt force injuries causing his death. On June 16, 2025, Cassey Hay pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse-domestic violence in relation to the fatality of her son. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 12 years of standard probation following her release. On December 18, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Austin by his mother, Cassey Hay, and significant other, Nathaniel Gettler.

3. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in the child's home, the following information will be provided:

> **a. Services being provided to the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect at the time of the incident and the date of the last contact before the incident between the entity providing services and the person receiving services:**
>
> No services were being provided at the time of November 1, 2023, near fatality report. At that time, the family was being investigated for an open report from October 18, 2023. An investigation was initiated, and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when the report of the near fatality incident was received.
>
> **b. Was the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect the subject of a report for investigation at the time of the incident?**
>
> Austin Lahay and his mother, Cassey Hay, were subjects of the October 18, 2023, report.
>
> **c. All involvement of the child's parents and of the person suspected of the abuse or neglect in a situation for which a report for investigation was made or in services provided pursuant to this chapter in the five years preceding the incident:**

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The child's mother, Cassey Hay, was involved in the following prior reports in the five years preceding the near fatality incident:

> On May 24, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother, Cassey Hay. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the home and placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with Pinal County Superior Court and the allegations were substantiated. The parents failed to remedy the circumstances that brought the child into care. Parental rights were severed, and the child was adopted. The case closed on September 27, 2022.
>
> On April 12, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Cassey Hay. After an investigation, the allegation was unsubstantiated. The case was closed on June 16, 2023.
>
> On October 18, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Cassey Hay. The Department was making efforts to locate the family when the near fatality report was received on November 1, 2023.

DCS received the following prior report involving Nathaniel Gettler:

> On November 15, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect of children by significant other, Nathaniel Gettler, and other adults. The Department made attempts to locate the family. The family could not be located. The case was closed on December 28, 2021.

d. Any investigation pursuant to a report for investigation concerning the child, a member of the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect or services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in Cassey Hay pleading guilty to child abuse-domestic violence in relation to the fatality of her son. The Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Austin by his mother, Cassey Hay, and significant other, Nathaniel Gettler. There were no other children in the home, and the case was closed. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

4. If the victim in the Preliminary Report involved a child residing in an out-of-home placement, the following information will be provided:

a. Licensing Agency:

N/A

b. Licensing history of the out-of-home placement, including the type of license held by the operator of the placement and the period for which the placement has been licensed:

N/A

c. Summary of all violations by the licensee:

N/A

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d. Any other actions by the licensee or an employee of the licensee that constitute a substantial failure to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of a child.

N/A

5. Actions taken by the Department in response to the case including any changes to policy or practice and/or recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes:

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Tucson Police Department. There were no other children in the home, and the case was closed. Cassey Hay pleaded guilty to child abuse-domestic violence in relation to the fatality of her son. The Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Austin by his mother, Cassey Hay, and significant other, Nathaniel Gettler. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

Additionally, in accordance with A.R.S. § 8-469, cases with prior involvement with the Department within 3 years of the critical incident are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team (MDT). The team selects cases that present opportunities for systemic learning or that demonstrate opportunities for systemic change. The Department uses the aggregate data gathered through the MDT reviews to assess and guide future changes and/or recommendations to policies, practices, rules, or statutes to improve the quality of outcomes for children and families receiving services from the department. Findings from these reviews are compiled into an annual report which is shared on the DCS website. The target date for release of the next report is December 1, 2025.

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