Summary Report	Fatality	08/13/2025

1. Victim: Ezra Mejia – 9-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 April 3, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a motor vehicle accident involving several children that were not properly restrained. The accident resulted in the fatality of two children, Ezra Mejia and Remy Rosales, and the near fatality of two of their siblings. The investigation resulted in a determination that the accident was caused when the children's mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada, fell asleep while driving. On July 15, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect and physical abuse to Ezra Mejia and his siblings by their mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada.

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:

There were no services being provided to the family by the Department of Child Safety at the time of the incident.

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?

No.

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:

The child's mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada, was involved in the following prior report:

On March 5, 2022, a report was received alleging physical abuse to Ezra Mejia by his mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

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

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services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The report regarding the fatality of Ezra Mejia and Remy Rosales was investigated and the case was closed. This report also included an investigation into the near fatality of two siblings. Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were assessed as safe with their parents. The allegations of neglect and physical abuse to the children by their mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada, were substantiated. 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

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 Arizona Department of Public Safety. The report regarding the fatality of Remy Rosales and Ezra Mejia was investigated and the case was closed. This report also included an investigation into the near fatality of two siblings. Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were assessed as safe with both of their parents. The allegations of neglect and physical abuse of the children by their mother, Cecilia Mendez Taboada, were substantiated. No subsequent reports of abuse or neglect were received regarding the family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to always properly restrain children in vehicles.

For additional information please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Office of Injury Prevention: A Safe Ride home at: http://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/injury-prevention/index.php#safe-ride-home

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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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