Summary Report	Fatality	09/09/2025

1. Victim: Mariah Savard– 2-year-old female

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 her home when the following incident occurred:

> On August 9, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 2-year-old Mariah Savard. On August 8, 2023, Mariah was found submerged in the pool after being left unsupervised while in her father's care and was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. On April 8, 2025, the father, Lance Savard, was indicted by a Yuma County Grand Jury on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and child abuse in relation to her death.

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:

There has been no prior involvement of Mariah Savard or the child's mother with DCS.

The child's father, Lance Savard, was involved in the following prior reports:

> On February 13, 2008, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the parents' custody and a dependency petition was filed with the juvenile court. The parents were provided with reunification services, and the child was returned to Lance Savard's custody in December 2009. The allegations were substantiated, and the case was closed.

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On December 9, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. The report also included allegations of physical abuse to the child by their mother. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

On October 19, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their father, Lance Savard. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

On February 22, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother and their father, Lance Savard. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, 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 services provided to the child or the child's family since the date of the incident involving the fatality:

The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's father, Lance Savard, being indicted on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and child abuse in relation to Mariah's death. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe in their parents' care. The Department offered the family services, which they declined. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Lance Savard is pending and the case was closed on May 29, 2024.

A subsequent report was received on February 7, 2025, alleging neglect to siblings by their parents and sexual abuse allegations by another adult and Lance Savard to a sibling. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations, and the children were assessed as safe in their parents' care. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed in April 2025.

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 Yuma Police Department. The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's father, Lance Savard, being indicted on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and child abuse in relation to Mariah's death. Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe in their parents' care. The family was offered services by the Department, which they declined. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Lance Savard is pending and the case was closed on May 29, 2024.

A subsequent report was received on February 7, 2025, alleging neglect to siblings by their parents and sexual abuse allegations by another adult and Lance Savard to a sibling. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations, and the children were assessed as safe in their parents' care. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed in April 2025.

The Department reminds all caregivers to always watch children around water. For information and additional resources, please visit the Arizona Department of Health Services website at:

http://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/injury-prevention/drowning-prevention/index.php

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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