Summary Report	Fatality	02/11/2026

1. Victim: Nia Martin – 1-month-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 May 31, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report the fatality of 1-month-old Nia Martin, who was found unresponsive after co-sleeping with a sibling. The child was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. On January 26, 2026, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the child's mother, Keara Lee.

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:

At the time the fatality report was received, the Department was in the process of referring the family for services due to an investigation of a report dated April 5, 2024. The last date of contact between the Department and the family was on April 25, 2024.

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?

The child and Ms. Lee were subjects of the April 5, 2024, 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:

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Lee:

On November 3, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect of a child by Ms. Lee. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information about services available in the community and the case was closed on January 10, 2023.

On April 5, 2024, a report was received alleging neglect to Nia by Ms. Lee. The child were assessed as safe. The investigation was open when the fatality report was received. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

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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 siblings initially being assessed as safe in the home. The family was referred for services, but the siblings were later removed from the home and placed into DCS custody. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. The Department continued to provide out of home services to the family. The children reunified with their parents in March 2025, and the dependency was dismissed in July 2025. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Ms. Lee was substantiated.

A subsequent report involving a sibling was received on August 16, 2024, alleging physical abuse by Ms. Lee and the child's father. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the sibling was assessed as safe in their out-of-home placement.

A subsequent report alleging neglect to a newborn sibling was received on April 9, 2025. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the sibling was assessed as safe with the parents.

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 Phoenix Police Department. The siblings were initially assessed as safe in the home. The family was referred for services, but the siblings were later removed from the home and placed into DCS custody. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. The Department continued to provide out of home services to the family. The children reunified with their parents in March 2025, and the dependency was dismissed in July 2025. The allegation of neglect pertaining to Ms. Lee was substantiated

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The Department reminds all caregivers to practice safe sleep. For additional information please visit the DCS website at: https://dcs.az.gov/Services/Safe-Sleep.

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, 2026.

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