Summary Report	Fatality	08/25/2025

1. Victim: Santos Noriega – 3-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 February 26, 2025, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 3-year-old Santos Noriega who was transported to the hospital due to a gunshot wound. The child had accidentally shot himself after finding an unsecured gun in the father's home. On July 23, 2025, the child's father, Anthony Noriega pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter due to the fatality incident.

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 DCS involvement with the family.

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 incident resulted in the child's father, Anthony Noriega, pleading guilty to one count of manslaughter. The other child in the home was assessed as safe with the other parent. There are no services being provided to the family at this time

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and the DCS investigation is pending. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect 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 South Tucson Police Department. The child's father, Anthony Noriega, pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter. The other child in the home was assessed as safe with the other parent. There are no services being provided to the family at this time and the DCS investigation is pending. There have been no subsequent reports of abuse or neglect received regarding the family.

The Department reminds all caregivers to practice firearm safety and always store all firearms unloaded, in a secure locked location.

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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