

Preliminary Report	Fatality	05/13/2026
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- 1. Victim:** Tammy Hernandez – 4-year-old female
- 2. Date of notification to DCS:** 3/16/24
- 3. Date of fatality:** 3/16/24
- 4. Date of determination that the fatality was the result of abuse or neglect*:** 5/6/26
- 5. County and general location of the residence of the victim:** Pima County – Tucson, AZ
- 6. Alleged perpetrator(s) name, age and city, town or general location:**

Nathan Peru – age 30 – Tucson, AZ

7. Circumstances of the fatality that indicate it was the result of abuse or neglect:

On March 16, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Tammy Hernandez, who reportedly drowned in the bathtub and died at home. The medical examiner determined the child suffered possible drowning, blunt force injuries, and a severe stomach ulcer contributing to her death. Tammy’s father, Nathan Peru, was indicted on charges of child abuse and sexual abuse. While awaiting trial, Nathan Peru died. The Department determined Tammy Hernandez died as result of physical abuse and neglect while in the care of her father, Nathan Peru.

8. Whether DCS has received any reports or past cases, of child abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the current alleged perpetrator(s):**

DCS received the following prior reports involving Tammy Hernandez and her father, Nathan Peru:

On August 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother and the sibling’s father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Nathan Peru. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when another report was received.

On September 8, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother and the sibling’s father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Nathan Peru. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when another report was received.

On October 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother and the sibling’s father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Nathan Peru. Upon locating the family, an assessment of child safety was completed for all three reports. As a result, Tammy and the sibling were removed from their parents’ custody and placed in foster care. The allegations of neglect to Tammy and the

sibling by all adults for the three open reports were substantiated. The allegation of physical abuse in the September 8, 2020, report was unsubstantiated. Services were provided to the family. Tammy was returned home with her father, Nathan Peru, in November 2023, and the dependency was dismissed.

DCS received the following reports involving the father, Nathan Peru:

On March 29, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. Following an assessment of child safety the children were removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster care. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services. Mr. Peru's parental rights were terminated in 2014.

On August 30, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. Following an assessment of child safety the child was removed from their parents' custody and placed with a relative. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services. Mr. Peru's parental rights were terminated in 2014.

On August 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. This report was being investigated when another report was received. The allegations were later substantiated.

On August 30, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. Following an assessment of child safety the child was removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster care. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services, and the child was returned to their mother's home in 2022.

On June 9, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from their parents' custody and added to an existing dependency case. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services, and the child was returned to their mother's home in 2022.

On September 24, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Nathan Peru. Following an investigation, the child was assessed as safe to remain in their mother's care. The Department continued to provide services to the family through the open dependency case. The allegations were unsubstantiated.

9. Actions taken by DCS in response to the fatality:

A joint investigation was conducted with the Pima County Sherriff's Office.

10. Actions taken regarding the child and/or other children in the home:

There were no other children in the home.

11. Whether the agency is or intends to provide direct services or service referrals to the family:

There were no services provided by the Department following the fatality incident.

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*The determination that a fatality or near fatality is the result of abuse, abandonment or neglect is based one or more of the following criteria: (1) The perpetrator(s) arrest related to the incident, (2) Substantiated finding(s) linking the alleged perpetrator(s) action(s) to the fatality or near fatality and/or (3) Results of the Medical Examiner's report.

** Information released after July 3, 2015 provides reports, or any current or past cases, of abuse, abandonment or neglect involving the child or the alleged perpetrator pursuant to A.R.S. § 8-807.01(A)(1)(e).
Posted information may be updated as new information becomes available.