

<b>Summary Report</b>	<b>Fatality</b>	<b>05/13/2026</b>
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**1. Victim:** Tammy Hernandez – 4-year-old

**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 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.

**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:**

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.

DCS received the following report involving Tammy's mother:

On April 11, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from their parents' custody and added to the existing dependency case that was open involving Tammy Hernandez and their sibling. The Department continued to provide services to the family through the open dependency case. The allegations were substantiated.

**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 joint investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's father, Nathan Peru, being indicted by a Pima County grand jury on charges of sexual abuse and child abuse. The Department determined Tammy Hernandez died as result of physical abuse and neglect while in the care of her father, Nathan Hernandez.

A subsequent report involving Tammy's mother and a newborn sibling was received on August 28, 2025. The investigation resulted in the child being removed from the mother's custody and placed in foster care.

**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 Pima County Sheriff's Office. The investigation of the fatality report resulted in the child's father, Nathan Peru, being indicted by a Pima County grand jury on charges of sexual abuse and child abuse. The Department determined Tammy Hernandez died as result of physical abuse and neglect while in the care of her father, Nathan Hernandez.

A subsequent report involving Tammy's mother and a newborn sibling was received on August 28, 2025. The investigation resulted in the child being removed from the mother's custody and placed in foster care.

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, 2026.