



**ARIZONA**  
DEPARTMENT  
*of* CHILD SAFETY



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Mike Faust, Director  
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

## October is National Safe Sleep Awareness Month



Every 5 days, a baby suffocates in Arizona.

It happens in rocking chairs, on couches, in car seats and bassinets. It happens in cribs and beds. Young mothers and fathers fall asleep after feeding the baby in bed, and wake up to a tragedy.

Many parents still believe co-sleeping is acceptable. It is not. Co-sleeping is a deadly practice.

We have more than statistics to prove it. We know the inconsolable parents that once believed this would never happen to them. We will never know their beautiful children, because they are no longer with us. **Watch this video** to hear the voice of Arizona parents that have suffered the loss of their children to sleep-related death.

It doesn't have to be this way.

October is National Safe Sleep Awareness month as well as Domestic Violence Awareness month.

For the first time in Arizona, in addition to lighting the Capitol dome purple to raise awareness surrounding Domestic Violence, the Governor has issued a Proclamation on Safe Sleep. [Read the Proclamation.](#)

Our “ABC’s” messaging on safe sleep in recent years, while accurate, has not resulted in caregiver behavior change or reduced infant mortality from unsafe sleep in Arizona. As a result, we are renovating messaging to specifically include “suffocation” danger in the hopes to make a difference in saving innocent lives.

LA County was successful in reducing their sleep-related infant mortality rate by 50% with a public awareness campaign entitled “Don’t wake up to a tragedy.” With their permission, Arizona is adopting the same messaging. DCS is partnering with the Arizona chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to help spread the word about safe sleep for infants.



I’m also including a downloadable [poster](#) and [safe sleep checklist](#). Feel free to share far and wide. ***We need YOUR help.***

Governor Ducey and I ask that every Arizona citizen learn about and share Safe Sleep practices with all mothers, fathers and caregivers so every family can be informed of the dangers of co-sleeping. Together, we can make a difference in reducing Arizona’s infant mortality rate from sleep-related death.

Sincerely,

Mike Faust  
Director  
Arizona Department of Child Safety

## ABOUT DIRECTOR MIKE FAUST

Mike Faust is the Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

Mike began his state career in September 2015 at the Arizona Department of Administration's Government Transformation Office. During this assignment he worked closely with the DCS leadership team to build the agency's management system, supported development and implemented the Department's strategic objectives and improvement priorities. Mike found working in child welfare to be extraordinarily rewarding. He officially joined the Child Safety team in December 2016 as Deputy Director where he continued to support strategic planning, projects and management system definition across state agencies.

Before joining the state, Mike spent over 15 years in the aerospace manufacturing industry in various capacities including general management, value stream management, manufacturing engineering and continuous improvement. Mike's hands-on approach and ability to practically apply lean manufacturing concepts to human services delivery has made a lasting impact on Arizona's child welfare system. Key contributions include the elimination of the 16,000 inactive case backlog, safe reduction of Arizona's out-of-home care population by 25 percent, and increased timeliness of service referrals.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

The Department of Child Safety is dedicated to the vision that "Children thrive in family environments free from abuse and neglect." As highly motivated and caring public servants, the DCS team is committed to fulfilling this mission with excellence, providing safety and well-being for the most vulnerable population in Arizona - our children. If you suspect child abuse, call [888-SOS-CHILD](tel:888-SOS-CHILD).



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