

Statement on the fatality of a 13-year-old boy

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On October 26, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of a 13-year-old boy, Caden Sarver.

Caden arrived at the hospital suffering from blunt force trauma to the head and was placed on life support.

Caden sustained his injuries earlier that day from his father, Paul Sarver, who assaulted Caden and his mother with a baseball bat.

Police shot and killed Mr. Sarver after they arrived at the home and engaged in a confrontation with Mr. Sarver.

DCS immediately removed the other child living in the home and placed the child in foster care with a relative.

Caden passed away from his injuries on October 30, 2020.

Caden's mother also passed away from her injuries.

DCS is currently ensuring that Caden's sibling is receiving the care and services the child needs after experiencing these tragic events.

At the time of the incident, DCS was investigating the family on a prior report.

On October 13, 2020, the Department received a report that Mr. Sarver physically abused Caden and his sibling. The report alleged Mr. Sarver and Caden engaged in a physical confrontation after Mr. Sarver struck the family dog with a coat hanger. After the confrontation, Mr. Sarver moved out of the home. During the DCS investigation, neither child had visible marks or injuries that indicated abuse. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support removing the children from home since Mr. Sarver was not living in the home and the mother was assessed as a safe parent. The case was still open at the time of the October 26, 2020 incident.