

Statement on the fatality of a newborn girl

Date Issued: January 29, 2021

On May 25, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a newborn, Baby Girl Starr.

The newborn was taken to the hospital hours after a homebirth and passed away.

DCS removed the child's siblings from the home and placed them in foster care.

The Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court on May 28, 2020.

On July 17, 2020, the court granted the dependency petition as to the siblings and the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect to the parents, Tiffany Starr and Mark Mikles.

The Department is currently providing services to the family.

DCS does not have prior history with Mr. Mikles.

DCS has the following history with Ms. Starr:

On October 4, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Starr neglected her child. The report alleged Ms. Starr was unable to properly care for the child. The DCS investigation found evidence of illicit drug use and domestic violence in the home. DCS removed the child from the home and filed a dependency petition. The allegation was substantiated and the Department provided services to the family. The court eventually ordered this child to be placed in the custody of the child's father and the case was closed.

While the dependency case was still open, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Starr neglected a child on December 29, 2015. The report alleged Ms. Starr had given birth to a child while her other child remained in foster care. DCS removed the newborn from Ms. Starr's care and placed the child in foster care. The allegation was substantiated and DCS provided services to Ms. Starr. Ms. Starr's parental rights to this child were terminated in May 2017.