

Statement on the near death of 10-year-old boy

Date Issued: August 10, 2020

On March 27, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a 10-year-old boy, Caleb Hatch.

Caleb was found deceased from a gunshot wound in his home.

His father, Steven Hatch, shot and killed Caleb prior to committing suicide.

There were no other children residing in the home at the time of the incident.

On April 17, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of abuse against Steven Hatch.

DCS received has the following history involving Steven Hatch:

On January 20, 2012, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch physically abused one of his children. According to the report, Mr. Hatch kicked the child, causing a bruise to appear on the child's leg. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to support the allegations. The family was offered child care, counseling, and a list of resources within the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On May 31, 2012, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch emotionally abused and neglected one of his children. According to the report, Mr. Hatch was undermining the child's mental health treatments and could not properly care for the child's behavioral health needs. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the neglect allegation. An out-of-home dependency petition was filed and the child was taken into DCS care. Subsequently, an in-home dependency petition was filed on three other children in the home. Although the out-of-home dependency petition resulted in the one child being adjudicated dependent by the Pima County Superior Court, the in-home dependency petition was later dismissed as to the three other children.

The dependency case was open when the Department received the following six reports:

On December 3, 2013, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch neglected another child. According to the report, Mr. Hatch stated he was no longer willing to care for the child. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

On February 14, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch physically abused one of his children. According to the report, the child was afraid to return home because the child misbehaved in school. The child allegedly feared that Mr. Hatch would beat him as a punishment and that Mr. Hatch would employ physical abuse when the child

Recipient Name

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misbehaved. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

On March 7, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch physically abused one of his children. According to the report, Mr. Hatch hit one of the children. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

On June 5, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch neglected two of his children. According to the report, Mr. Hatch could not properly care for the two children's behavioral health needs and he was no longer willing to care for the two children. Since he was no longer willing to care for the two children, DCS took custody of them and placed them into foster care. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated.

On June 6, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch physically abused one of the children. According to the report, prior to the children entering DCS care, Mr. Hatch would hit one of the children with a belt. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated.

On June 10, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch physically abused the two children. According to the report, prior to the children entering DCS care, Mr. Hatch would take the two children outside during rain storms and strike them with a belt. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated.

After the dependency cases were closed due to the children turning 18-years-old, the Department received the following report on Mr. Hatch:

On February 17, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hatch neglected a child. According to the report, Mr. Hatch exposed the child to a domestic violence incident. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to support the allegations. The family was involved in services within the community. DCS followed-up with the family to ensure the child was receiving the necessary services. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.