

## **Statement on the fatality of a six-year-old girl**

**Date Issued: April 13, 2021**

On August 29, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a six-year-old girl, Denali Yazzie.

Denali was found unresponsive while lying next to a fentanyl pill in her home. She was taken to the hospital where doctors pronounced her deceased.

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

The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on September 2, 2020, alleging neglect to Denali Yazzie and her siblings by their parents, Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie.

On October 21, 2020, the court ruled the parents neglected Denali and her siblings.

In November 2020, the Maricopa County Medical Examiner's Office determined Denali died from ingesting fentanyl.

The Department is currently providing services to the family.

DCS has the following prior history with the family:

On March 19, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Yazzie and Ms. Tso-Yazzie neglected Denali and her siblings. The report alleged Denali had ingested prescription medication and was taken to the hospital. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. DCS removed Denali and her siblings from their home and placed them in foster care. DCS filed a dependency petition on April 5, 2018, alleging neglect by Velencia Tso-Yazzie and Dulbert Yazzie. The parents were provided services by the Department. On November 13, 2018, the court dismissed the dependency matter and the children were returned to Mr. Yazzie. The case was closed on November 14, 2018.