

Statement on the fatality of a one-year-old girl

Date Issued: January 29, 2021

On September 13, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a one-year-old girl, Emma Givens.

Emma was taken to the hospital after she experienced difficulty breathing. She was pronounced deceased after arriving at the hospital.

Doctors determined Emma was malnourished.

On September 22, 2020, Emma's parents, James Givens and Jamie McBride, were charged with first degree murder and child abuse.

DCS removed the other children living in the home and placed them in foster care. DCS filed a dependency petition with the Yuma County Superior Court on September 18, 2020.

DCS is currently providing services to the family.

DCS does not have prior history with Emma Givens.

DCS has the following history with Mr. Givens and Ms. McBride:

On April 29, 2013, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Givens and Ms. McBride neglected two of Emma's siblings. The report alleged the parents were not properly caring for the children and failed to provide them with proper medical care. The DCS investigation determined the children did not exhibit signs of neglect and the parents did take the children to doctor's appointments. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On April 25, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Givens and Ms. McBride physically abused one of Emma's siblings. The report alleged the child had a cigarette burn on the child's arm. The child admitted Mr. Givens accidentally burned the child's arm with a cigarette when he fell asleep on the sofa. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.