

## **Statement on the fatality of a six-month-old boy**

**Date Issued: March 2, 2021**

On January 9, 2018, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a six-month-old boy, Julius Rodriguez.

Julius was found unresponsive in his home after being put to sleep in a crib which contained a plastic bag.

Paramedics pronounced Julius deceased after arriving at the scene.

The DCS investigation did not find evidence that Julius' siblings were being abused or neglected.

Since the children were older and not at risk for unsafe sleep conditions, the Department assessed the children as safe to remain with their parents. However, the DCS investigation into Julius' death continued.

On September 21, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to the child's mother, Sabrina Ortiz.

On October 23, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect as to the child's father, Edgar Rodriguez.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Julius Rodriguez, Sabrina Ortiz and/or Edgar Rodriguez:

On October 27, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Ortiz neglected one of Julius' siblings. The report alleged the child had a light-purple bruise on the shoulder that Ms. Ortiz was unable to explain how the child received it. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 29, 2017, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Ortiz and Mr. Rodriguez neglected Julius. The report alleged the parents were not providing proper medical care for Julius. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The case was still open, pending the completion of necessary DCS follow-up procedures, when the fatality occurred. The November 29, 2017, allegations were ultimately unsubstantiated.

Recipient Name  
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