

Statement on the fatality of a two-month-old girl

Date Issued: April 23, 2021

On March 9, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a 2-month-old girl, My'kia Sheriff.

My'kia was found unresponsive at her home after being placed in an unsafe sleep environment. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

The DCS investigation determined the other children living in the home were safe.

DCS provided in-home services to the family. The case was closed on May 8, 2020, after the family successfully completed in-home services.

On December 24, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation against My'kia's mother, Shakea Peinado, that her neglect of My'kia contributed to the child's death.

DCS has the following history with Ms. Peinado:

On January 22, 2004, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected one of her children. The report alleged Ms. Peinado tested positive for marijuana during her pregnancy. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the neglect allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On June 09, 2005, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected her children. The report alleged the mother was not providing proper medical care for the children. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On July 26, 2011, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected one of her children. The report alleged Ms. Peinado's newborn child tested positive for marijuana. The DCS investigation was ongoing when the Department received another report on the family.

On August 17, 2011, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected one of her children. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. DCS removed the children from the home and placed them in foster care. The family was provided services by the Department. A dependency petition was filed on September 19, 2011. The children were court-ordered home to the mother on January 2, 2013 and the dependency matter was dismissed on April 23, 2013. The allegations of neglect were substantiated against the mother. The case was closed on May 20, 2013.

On February 27, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected her children. The report alleged Ms. Peinado's newborn child tested positive for marijuana. A safety plan was implemented and an in-home dependency petition was filed on April 8,

Recipient Name

Page 2

2014, with the Maricopa County Superior Court. The neglect allegations were substantiated and the family was provided with DCS services. The dependency matter was still ongoing when the next report was received.

On September 22, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected her children. The report alleged Ms. Peinado failed to properly supervise her children. A supplemental dependency petition was filed to add another child to the ongoing dependency. The family continued participating in DCS services. On February 1, 2016, a supplemental dependency petition was filed and another child was added to the out-of-home dependency. The court ordered transitioning the children home starting in May 2017. The court dismissed the dependency on November 9, 2017. The allegations were substantiated against the mother and the case was closed on December 1, 2017.

On December 12, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Peinado neglected My'kia. Ms. Peinado tested positive for marijuana at the time of My'kia's birth. The family was offered in-home services. The case was open when the fatality report was received on March 9, 2019. The allegation of neglect was substantiated against Shakea Peinado.