

Statement on the fatality of a one-month-old boy

Date Issued: May 20, 2021

On January 12, 2020, Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a one-month-old boy, Xavier Garcia. Xavier was found unresponsive at home after co-sleeping with his mother, Corina Sanchez.

At the time of his death, Xavier and his siblings were in DCS care under an in-home dependency. The children entered the in-home dependency after the Department received a report on December 13, 2019, alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected Xavier when she tested positive for methamphetamine, amphetamine and marijuana after giving birth to him. After an initial child safety assessment, DCS implemented a safety plan where a relative, who lived in the home, would monitor Ms. Sanchez's contact with her children. The Department filed the in-home dependency on January 3, 2020.

After Xavier died, the Department filed a motion for an out-of-home dependency where the children would remain in the care of the relative with the stipulation that Ms. Sanchez would have to leave the home. The Cochise County Superior Court granted the motion on February 10, 2020.

On December 30, 2021, the Department substantiated the allegation of death child neglect against the child's mother, Corina Sanchez.

DCS is currently providing services to the family.

DCS has the following history with the family:

On May 8, 2009, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected her child. The report alleged Ms. Sanchez had tested positive for marijuana at the time of the child's birth. The newborn tested negative for marijuana. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to remove the child. The family was provided with information on services in the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on May 22, 2009.

On September 12, 2011, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected one of her children. The report alleged the child was a substance exposed newborn. While Ms. Sanchez admitted to using alcohol and marijuana, she said she had stopped after finding out she was pregnant. Both Ms. Sanchez's and the newborn's drug screens were negative. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was provided with information on services in the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on October 20, 2011.

On March 8, 2013, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected her children. The report alleged the children were exposed to illicit substance use in the home.

Recipient Name

Page 2

The Department made several attempts to locate the family, but was unsuccessful. Since the family was unable to be located, the case was closed on September 19, 2013.

On December 3, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez physically abused another person's child. The report alleged Ms. Sanchez struck the child, leaving a bruise under the child's eye. Ms. Sanchez worked in the hotel where the child and his family were living. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was substantiated. However, the investigation determined there was no evidence that Ms. Sanchez had physically abused her own children. Her children remained in her care. The case was still open when the next report was received.

On December 10, 2015, the Department received a report Ms. Sanchez neglected one of her children. The report alleged Ms. Sanchez was not properly supervising or caring for the child. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was provided with information on services in the community. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was closed on December 24, 2015.

On August 8, 2017, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected one of her children. The report alleged the child was born substance exposed. Both Ms. Sanchez and the newborn tested positive for amphetamines and marijuana. The allegation of neglect was substantiated. However, there was not enough evidence to remove the children from the home. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The case was closed July 9, 2018.

On March 28, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected her children. The report alleged Ms. Sanchez exposed her children to illicit substance abuse in the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was closed on May 23, 2019.