ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT
of CHILD SAFETY

Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

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

Date Issued: May 7, 2021

On April 20, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of a 2-month-old boy, Zi'kahi West.

The child was found unresponsive in his home and was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

An autopsy conducted on April 21, 2020, revealed several injuries that were determined to be non-accidental.

DCS removed the other children who were living in the home and placed them in foster care.

On November 24, 2020, the Office of the Medical Examiner finalized their report determining that the manner of death was homicide.

Zi'kahi was in the care of his father, Marquey West, when the child sustained the injuries. Mr. West has pending criminal charges for child abuse.

DCS is currently providing services to the family.

DCS has the following prior report involving the near fatality victim:

On February 25, 2020, the Department received a report alleging Zi'kahi and his twin were neglected by their mother. The report alleged the mother used marijuana while pregnant with the twins. Zi'kahi and his mother tested negative at the time of his birth while Zi'kahi's twin tested positive for marijuana. The family was participating in DCS in-home services when the fatality incident occurred. The neglect allegation was eventually substantiated.

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