

Statement on the death of a six-year-old boy and the near death of a seven-year-old boy

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On March 2, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of a six-year-old boy, Deshaun Martinez.

Deshaun was found unresponsive at his home and later pronounced deceased from malnourishment.

During the investigation, DCS found Deshaun's sibling, a seven-year-old boy, was in critical condition due to malnutrition.

After the seven-year-old near fatality victim was released from the hospital, DCS placed him in a foster home.

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

The children's parents, Elizabeth Archibeque and Anthony Martinez were charged with first-degree murder and child abuse. The paternal grandmother, Ann Marie Martinez, was also charged with first-degree murder and child abuse.

DCS filed a dependency petition with the Coconino County Superior Court on March 5, 2020.

The Department does not have any prior reports involving Anthony Martinez.

DCS has the following history with Elizabeth Archibeque:

On February 18, 2013, The Department received a report alleging Ms. Archibeque physically abused and neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, Ms. Archibeque kicked a car seat while the child was seated in it. The report also alleged the child was in the home when domestic violence incidents occurred. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. DCS provided the family with in-home services and the case was closed after they successfully completed them.