

Statement on the death of a one-year-old boy

Date Issued: January 20, 2022

On May 10, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the drowning of one-year-old, Cameron Sam. It was reported that the parents, Cameron Sam, and Sarajeon Claw, had left Cameron unattended in the bathtub.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were determined to be safe. The allegations were substantiated and the case was closed. The parents were provided with information on community resources and grief counseling.

DCS received the following prior report involving Cameron Sam and Sarajeon Claw:

On October 22, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to other children by their mother, Sarajeon Claw, and physical abuse by their stepfather, Cameron Sam. The report alleged the Cameron had pulled one of the children's ear so hard that his ear "popped" loudly and he lost his hearing for "a little while." There were concerns that mother was not protecting the children from their stepfather. During the investigation, the victim child was interviewed and reported that Cameron had pulled on his ear but it did not pop. He also said that he did not lose his hearing. The child reported both his mother and Cameron protect him. The investigation resulted in the allegations being unsubstantiated and the family was referred to in-home services. The family successfully completed the program on February 28, 2019.