



Statement on death of 21-month-old boy Samuel Hamilton

Issue Date: April 24, 2018

The Department of Child Safety received a report on April 19, 2018, regarding the death of a 21-month-old boy, Samuel Hamilton.

Samuel was outside his Phoenix home when his father, Richard Hamilton, ran him over with his truck.

Samuel was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead due to the injuries he sustained.

Police believe Mr. Hamilton may have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

Mr. Hamilton was charged with negligent homicide.

There were no other children living in the home.

Mr. Hamilton does have prior DCS history:

On January 16, 2003, the Department received two reports alleging Mr. Hamilton physically abused one of his children and neglected all three of his children. The report stated the home was filthy and the young children would leave the home unsupervised. There were also allegations of domestic abuse against Mr. Hamilton.

The DCS investigation also revealed Mr. Hamilton abused alcohol and illegal substances. However, there was not enough evidence to remove the children from the home since there was a safe caregiver living in the home who could protect the children from harm. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On June 14, 2004, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Hamilton neglected one of his children. The report stated that the child had obtained Mr. Hamilton's marijuana. The child told the DCS investigator he found the marijuana hidden outside of the house. Both Mr. Hamilton and the child denied that Mr. Hamilton had given the child marijuana. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

DCS has the following history involving Samuel Hamilton:

On July 17, 2016, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Samuel due to his exposure to THC in utero.

Mr. Hamilton was a member of the household at the time of the investigation. During the investigation, Mr. Hamilton admitted he struggled with alcohol and substance abuse in the past, but he had been sober since 2007. He told DCS he was on parole and participating in frequent drug tests.

While there were no grounds to remove the child, the allegation was substantiated because Samuel was exposed to THC in utero. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.