



STATEMENT ON THE NEAR FATALITY OF A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Issue Date: July 2, 2018

On July 15, 2017, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report of neglect regarding the near fatality of a 13-year-old girl.

The report stated that the girl was ejected from the vehicle after her mother, Jaime Harner, rear-ended a car in front of her.

The girl arrived at the hospital with extensive injuries, including a lacerated liver, forearm fracture and cuts to her face.

A subsequent DCS investigation determined that the child was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident. DCS substantiated the neglect allegation against Ms. Harner on June 19, 2018.

While there was not sufficient grounds to remove the child from the home, the Department offered the family intensive in-home services and they agreed to participate.

The near fatality victim does not have prior DCS history.

Ms. Harner has the following history with the Department:

On April 12, 2017, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Harner neglected a teenage child placed in her care. The child was Ms. Harner's relative. The report alleged Ms. Harner failed to properly follow-up on subsequent medical care for the child. The DCS investigation could not find evidence to support the allegations. However, the child was removed from the kinship care of Ms. Harner and placed in a foster home. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On August 5, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Harner neglected a sibling of the near fatality victim. The report alleged Ms. Harner was failing to provide appropriate, on-going medical treatment for the child. While investigating this report, the Department received another report on August 15, 2016, alleging Ms. Harner neglected one of the children placed in her care. This report alleged Ms. Harner was not properly securing her medical marijuana and the teenage child had access to it. During the investigations, DCS could not find evidence to support either neglect allegation. However, DCS removed the relative children living with Ms. Harner and placed with another relative foster parent. Both allegations were unsubstantiated. The Department provided the family with community resources and the case was closed.