



## **Statement on the near fatality of a two-year-old boy**

**Issue Date: October 1, 2018**

On August 28, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a two-year-old boy.

The report stated the child sustained critical, life-threatening injuries from a car accident because he was not buckled in a car seat or wearing a seatbelt.

After a DCS investigation, the Department substantiated the neglect allegation on his parents, Brandon Bellamy and Cecilly Columbus, for not properly restraining the child.

While the report was substantiated, there was not enough evidence to remove the child or his sibling from the home.

The Department provided the family with in-home services and the case was closed.

Neither Mr. Bellamy nor the near fatality victim have prior DCS history.

Ms. Columbus does have the following DCS history:

On December 23, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Columbus neglected two children by leaving them unsupervised for an extended period of time at a mall play area. The two children were relatives of Ms. Columbus, and she was their caregiver at that time. The allegations were substantiated and the case was closed.

On July 26, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Columbus physically abused the near fatality victim's sibling. According to the report, Ms. Columbus hit the child in a public place. The DCS investigation did not find any marks or bruises on the child. The child did not report any abuse and that they felt safe with the parent. Police were not involved in this investigation. Since there was no evidence of abuse, the allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.