



Statement on the near fatality of a one-year-old girl

Issue Date: August 21, 2019

On April 10, 2018, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a one-year-old girl.

The girl was taken to the hospital after experiencing symptoms of respiratory distress.

At the hospital, doctors determined she was in critical condition and suffered a collapsed lung, low oxygen levels, bruising, and gastrointestinal injuries.

DCS immediately removed the other child who was living in the home and placed the child in licensed foster care. After the near fatality victim was released from the hospital, she was also placed in foster care.

The Department filed a dependency petition in Maricopa County Juvenile Court.

On May 13, 2019, the court determined through a dependency proceeding that the near fatality victim's mother, Megan Makula, and father, Isaias Payan, had abused and/or failed to protect the child and severed their parental rights to both children.

DCS has the following history involving this family:

On November 13, 2013, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Makula and Mr. Payan neglected a sibling of the near fatality victim. Ms. Makula and the newborn tested positive for illicit substances. The allegations were substantiated. DCS removed the near fatality victim's sibling and placed the child in foster care. Neither Ms. Makula nor Mr. Payan participated in services to reunify with the child. The court eventually terminated their parental rights and the child was adopted.

On March 17, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Payan physically abused the near fatality victim. DCS could not locate the family at the time since the reporting source did not know where the family was living. The report was still open when DCS received the near fatality report on April 10, 2018.