

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

Date Issued: September 12, 2019

On April 18, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a one-year-old boy.

The child arrived at the hospital in critical condition. He was purple in color, but he was resuscitated and intubated. He was having seizures and his pupils were consistent with an overdose. A toxicology screen was conducted, which was positive for agents given by the hospital, fentanyl and benzodiazepines, but also for aminophenazone, which is an NSAID no longer available in the United States. There was a high suspicion that his altered mental state was caused by synthetic fentanyl.

The child had been at home in the care of his mother, Lucia Arguelles, when the incident occurred.

DCS removed the other children in the home and placed them with a relative. After the hospital released the near fatality victim, he was also placed with the relative.

The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court on April 23, 2019.

On August 5, 2019, the court found through the dependency proceeding that Ms. Arguelles neglected the child by failing to provide him with a safe and stable home environment and proper supervision.

DCS is currently providing services to the family.

DCS has the following history with the family:

On November 17, 2006, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Arguelles neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, Ms. Arguelles failed to protect one of the children from being inappropriately touched. The Department investigation did not find enough evidence to remove the children from the home. The Department started providing intensive in-home services to the family. The case was still open when another report was received.

Recipient Name

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On April 25, 2007, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Arguelles physically abused one of the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, Ms. Arguelles hit the sibling with a belt and slapped the child's face. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the physical abuse allegation and it was unsubstantiated.

The neglect allegation from November 17, 2006, was substantiated. After the family successfully completed in-home services, the case was closed.

On April 27, 2009, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Arguelles neglected the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, the children were not being properly fed or cared for since the home was extremely filthy. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On May 9, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Arguelles neglected the near fatality victim and his siblings. According to the report, Ms. Arguelles frequently left the children alone without proper supervision. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.