

Statement on the near fatality of a 13-year-old girl

Issue Date: September 12, 2019

On April 30, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 13-year-old girl.

According to the report, the girl's stepfather, Isiah Jackson, shot the near fatality victim in the chest with a long rifle pellet gun.

The girl was transported to the hospital where doctors determined she was in critical condition and required emergency surgery.

On May 8, 2019, Isiah Jackson was indicted on charges of child abuse in Maricopa County Superior Court.

DCS removed the other children in the home and placed them in licensed foster care. The near fatality victim was also placed in foster care after she was released from the hospital.

DCS continues to provide services to the family.

The Department has the following DCS history with Mr. Jackson and the near fatality victim:

On September 2, 2009, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson physically abused a sibling of the near fatality victim. According to the report, Mr. Jackson punched and whipped the child with a belt. Neither the police investigation nor the DCS investigation could find enough evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On February 16, 2010, the Department received a report alleging Isiah Jackson neglected a sibling of the near fatality. The DCS investigation uncovered allegations of neglect to the sibling and the near fatality victim by their parents. The children were removed from the home and the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. The allegations were later substantiated. The family was participating in DCS services when a subsequent report was received.

Recipient Name

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On September 28, 2010, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson and the girl's mother neglected a sibling of the near fatality victim. The sibling was born while the parents were still engaged in DCS services. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court as to the newborn sibling and the allegations were later substantiated.

While the near fatality victim was still in DCS care, the Department received a report on June 12, 2012, alleging physical abuse and neglect to the girl by an unidentified perpetrator. The near fatality victim disclosed that she had been physically abused by an unknown person. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to substantiate the allegations.

After the children were returned to their mother and the court dismissed the family's dependency case, the Department received a report on February 21, 2013, alleging Mr. Jackson and the mother neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, the child was not being properly supervised before and after school. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to remove the child. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On May 2, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson and the mother neglected the near fatality victim and one of her siblings. According to the report, the parents were not properly feeding the child. While DCS was investigating this allegation, the Department received another report on the family

On May 16, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson physically abused the near fatality victim. According to the report, Mr. Jackson punched the girl in the stomach. At this time, the family agreed to participate in DCS's in-home services. While the family was receiving services, the Department received another report.

On September 8, 2014, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson and the mother neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings. According to the report, one of the children was arriving at daycare with dirty bottles and the parents did not seem concerned about the child's fever. The Department did not find evidence to support the allegations. The Department continued to provide in-home services and the May 2, May 16 and September 8 allegations were eventually all unsubstantiated.

On January 30, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson physically abused the near fatality victim and one of her siblings. The DCS investigation found evidence the children were being physically abused and removed them from the home. The investigation also uncovered additional allegations that Mr. Jackson neglected the children. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pinal County Superior Court and began providing services to the family. The allegations of abuse against Mr. Jackson were later substantiated.

While the dependency case was still open, the Department received a report on February 24, 2015, alleging Mr. Jackson and the mother neglected a sibling of the near fatality victim. The sibling was born while the parents were continuing to engage in DCS services. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pinal County Juvenile Court as to the newborn sibling and the allegations were later unsubstantiated.

On April 14, 2015, the Department received a report alleging the near fatality victim was physically abused in the licensed foster home where she was placed. The child disclosed that she was being physically disciplined in the foster placement. The child was moved to a new placement during the investigation. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the abuse allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated.

After the court dismissed the dependency petition, the Department received a report on January 29, 2016, alleging Mr. Jackson and the mother neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, the parents forced the child to clean and exercise all day as a punishment. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 29, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson and an uncle living in the home sexually abused the near fatality victim and her siblings. Neither the DCS investigation nor the Maricopa Police Department investigation found evidence of sexual abuse. The report was still open when a new report was received.

On December 10, 2016, the Department received a report alleging the mother neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, the mother did not want to take the child home from the hospital even though hospital staff had no medical reason to keep her. Both the victim and mother were interviewed and it was determined the child was safe with the mother. This report was still open when a new report was received.

On December 23, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Jackson neglected the near fatality victim's siblings. The Department responded to the report and met with Mr. Jackson who refused to cooperate with the investigation. The report remained open and it was later learned that the family had moved. The case was closed noting that although some contact had been made with the family, it would be classified as unable to locate at this time.

On July 24, 2017, the Department received a report alleging the mother and Mr. Jackson neglected the near fatality victim. The child had been reported as a runaway by the parents and was located by the Surprise Police Department on July 23, 2017. She was returned to the home by police and the family refused to cooperate upon initial contact by the Department. The case was closed with the allegations unsubstantiated.