

Statement on the near fatality of a five-month-old girl

Issue Date: December 11, 2019

On April 5, 2019, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 5-month-old girl.

The child arrived at the hospital in critical condition due to suffering multiple injuries.

DCS removed the other children who were living in the child's home and placed them in foster care. On April 10, 2019, the Department filed a dependency petition regarding the near fatality victim's siblings with the Maricopa County Superior Court.

When the near fatality victim was released from the hospital, DCS also placed her in foster care.

On May 3, 2019, the Department filed a dependency petition in regards to the near fatality victim.

After the children were in DCS care, the Department received a report on May 6, 2019, alleging the parents neglected the children by not seeking proper medical care. The alleged neglect occurred prior to the children entering DCS care.

On October 30, 2019, the court granted the dependency petition and the Department substantiated the all of the allegations against the parents, Mercedes Seyfried and Michael Ramirez.

The Department is currently providing services to the family.

Mr. Ramirez does not have prior DCS history.

Ms. Seyfried has the following prior DCS history:

On November 15, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Seyfried neglected the near fatality victim and another child. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The Department offered the family in-home services, but the family declined. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.