

## **Statement on the near death of a two-year-old girl**

**Date Issued: June 4, 2020**

On November 29, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near death of a 2-year-old girl.

The child was taken to the hospital after ingesting an unknown substance.

Since it was a suspected overdose, doctors administered two doses of Narcan and the child was admitted to the pediatric ICU.

It was determined the child possibly ingested fentanyl.

When the incident occurred, the child was in the care of her parents, Angel Diaz and Michelle Carlson.

DCS removed the other children living in the home and placed them with a relative.

The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on December 9, 2019.

On December 13, 2019, the court ruled that Mr. Diaz neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings.

On March 30, 2020, the court ruled that Michelle Carlson neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings.

After the near fatality victim was released from the hospital, DCS placed the child with her siblings in the relative's home.

The Department continues to provide services to the family.

DCS has the following history involving Michelle Carlson and Angel Diaz:

On April 10, 2006, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, Ms. Carlson did not properly supervise the young child, allowing him to wander the apartment complex alone. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

Recipient Name

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On February 15, 2012, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. The report alleged substance exposure at birth. The DCS investigation did not find enough evidence to remove the child. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The mother was provided with community services and the case was closed.

On August 15, 2012, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson physically abused one of the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, the child arrived at the hospital with a skull fracture. Doctors later determined that the child did not have a skull fracture. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On August 2, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson neglected the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, Ms. Carlson tested positive for marijuana during a prenatal exam. At the time of birth, neither Ms. Carlson nor her twin children tested positive. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The family was referred to services within the community.

On July 25, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson neglected one of the near fatality victim's half-siblings. According to the report, Ms. Carlson was involved in an altercation with the child. DCS was investigating the allegations when it received another report on the family.

On August 4, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Carlson and Mr. Diaz neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. According to the report, the parents were not properly supervising the child which allegedly led to the child sexually abusing another child in the home. Neither the police nor the DCS investigation found evidence of sexual abuse occurring between the two children. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the July 25, 2018, neglect allegations. The family was provided daycare services and community resources. All of the allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.