

Statement on the near death of two-month-old twins

Date Issued: August 10, 2020

On February 6, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatalities of Baby A and Baby B, two-month-old female twins.

Baby A and Baby B arrived at the hospital with life-threatening injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma.

The twins had been in the care of their father, Dontae Lavvone Johnson, prior to their arrival at the hospital.

DCS immediately removed the twins and their siblings from the home and filed a dependency petition on February 11, 2020, with the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Baby A and Baby B were placed together in foster care after they were released from the hospital.

Mr. Johnson eventually confessed to shaking the twins on several occasions causing the injuries.

Phoenix police arrested Mr. Johnson on March 9, 2020, and charged him with multiple counts of child abuse.

On March 12, 2020, DCS filed a petition to terminate parental rights with the Court regarding the twins and their siblings.

The Department continues to provide services to the children.

DCS received the following prior report involving Dontae Lavvone Johnson and the near fatality victims' mother:

On December 15, 2018, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Johnson and the mother neglected Baby A's and Baby B's siblings. The DCS investigator attempted to contact the family multiple times between December 2018 and May 2019. The investigator did interview other adults living in the home. While DCS could not locate the family, the investigator found enough evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were substantiated and the case was closed.