

Statement on the near death of a five-month-old boy

Date Issued: September 23, 2020

On September 26, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 5-month-old boy.

The child arrived at the hospital in critical condition and was suffering from multiple injuries.

Doctors determined the injuries were caused by inflicted trauma.

When the child sustained his injuries, he was in the care of his grandmother's live-in boyfriend, Erik Richmond, age 38.

After the child was released from the hospital, DCS placed the child in foster care.

The grandmother's biological child, who lived in the home part-time, was assessed as safe since Mr. Richmond was no longer living in the home.

The Department substantiated the allegations of physical abuse against Mr. Richmond on April 8, 2020.

DCS is currently providing services to the family.

DCS does not have prior history with Erik Richmond.

DCS has the following history involving the child's parents and the near fatality victim:

On April 21, 2019, the Department received a report alleging the near fatality victim was neglected by his mother. The report alleged the mother tested positive for methamphetamines when the near fatality victim was born. The mother was also not prepared to care for the baby. The DCS investigation determined the newborn was safe after the Coconino County Court granted guardianship of the child to a relative on July 15, 2019. The allegation against the mother was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.