

## **Statement on the near death of a 13-year-old boy**

**Date Issued: October 1, 2020**

On December 21, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a thirteen-year-old boy.

The child was transported to the hospital after being found unresponsive due to high blood sugar levels.

Doctors determined the near fatality victim was in critical condition.

The child had been hospitalized multiple times in the past year due to similar health issues.

DCS substantiated the allegation of neglect against his mother, Sukie Johnson, also known as Sukie Sanchez, for failing to provide proper medical care for the child.

During the DCS investigation, the Department initially removed the child from the home.

The near fatality victim has since been returned to Ms. Johnson's care.

The case was closed after the family successfully completed in-home services.

There were no other children living in the home at the time of the report.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Sukie Johnson and/or the near fatality victim:

On April 27, 2012, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Johnson and her husband neglected the near fatality victim and his half siblings. According to the report, the children were exposed to domestic violence incidents between Ms. Johnson and her husband. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On March 5, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Johnson neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, Ms. Johnson failed to provide adequate medical care for the child. The investigation was ongoing when DCS received another report on March 26, 2019, alleging Ms. Johnson neglected the near fatality victim by failing to provide proper medical care for the child. The DCS investigation identified a relative that could assist Ms. Johnson and ensure the child was receiving proper medical care. Both of the allegations were unsubstantiated and the investigations were closed.

Recipient Name

Page 2

On June 22, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Johnson neglected the near fatality victim. According to the report, Ms. Johnson failed to provide adequate medical care for the child by missing doctor appointments. DCS determined through conversations with the child's doctor and reviewing medical records that Ms. Johnson was not missing the child's doctor appointments. DCS offered the family community and in-home services, but they declined. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.