



## **Statement on the near fatality of a three-month-old boy**

**Issue Date: October 25, 2018**

On August 18, 2017, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a three-month-old boy.

The child was found unresponsive in his home and transported to a hospital.

A medical examination revealed the child suffered from severe head trauma and other injuries.

A DCS investigation determined the child's parents, Jesus Rivera and Jozelin Amaya, were responsible for the injuries.

The near fatality victim and his siblings were removed from their parents' home and placed with a relative.

On February 14, 2018, the juvenile court ruled that Mr. Rivera was responsible for the child's injuries.

On September 20, 2018, the juvenile court ruled that Ms. Amaya was responsible for the child's injuries.

The Department is seeking to terminate Mr. Rivera's and Ms. Amaya's parental rights.

DCS will continue to assist the Phoenix Police Department in its ongoing investigation.

The family has the following DCS history:

On April 25, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Mr. Rivera and Ms. Amaya physically abused the near fatality victim's sibling. According to the report, the child suffered from a skull fracture and a fractured femur. The parents reported the child was injured while in the care of a relative. During the DCS investigation, the Department received another report on the family.

On June 29, 2015, DCS received a report alleged Mr. Rivera and Ms. Amaya neglected the near fatality victim's siblings by continuing to leave them with the relative who was identified as an unsafe caregiver. DCS filed a dependency petition.

The family successfully completed services and the court dismissed the dependency. The allegations against the parents were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

The police investigation into the child's injuries did not uncover enough evidence to charge anyone with a crime.