



Mike Faust, Director
Douglas A. Ducey, Governor

Statement on the near fatality of a nine-month-old girl

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On September 13, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near death of a nine-month-old girl.

The child arrived at the hospital after she was not breathing and having seizures at home. At the hospital, the child tested positive for methamphetamine and norfentanyl.

The child's father, Brandon Smith, was caring for the child at the time of the incident.

On September 17, 2020, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court.

After the child was released from the hospital, DCS placed her in foster care. There were no other children living in the home.

On October 21, 2020, the court ruled that Mr. Smith's substance abuse and failure to protect the child led to the near fatality.

On January 20, 2021, the court also found the child's mother, Jessica Sullivan, failed to properly supervise and care for the child.

The Department is currently providing services to the family.

DCS has the following history with the near fatality victim and/or Ms. Sullivan:

On April 4, 2013, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sullivan neglected another child. The report alleged Ms. Sullivan and the newborn tested positive for opiates. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. The child was removed and placed with relatives. The Department offered Ms. Sullivan services, including drug treatment and parent aid services, but she failed to participate. Ms. Sullivan's parental rights were terminated in May 2015. The child was adopted by relatives.

On November 27, 2015, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sullivan neglected another child. The report alleged Ms. Sullivan and the newborn tested positive for opiates. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. The child was removed and placed with relatives. The Department offered Ms. Sullivan services including drug treatment and parent aid services. Ms. Sullivan successfully completed services and was reunified with the child. The dependency case was dismissed in May 2016.

On December 5, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sullivan neglected the near fatality victim. The report alleged Ms. Sullivan used illegal drugs during her pregnancy with the child. Both Ms. Sullivan and the child tested negative for drugs at the time of the birth. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. DCS offered the

Recipient Name

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family voluntary in-home services, but they declined. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.