



Statement on the near fatality of a two-year-old boy

Issue Date: 4/23/2019

On June 19, 2018, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a neglect report regarding the near fatality of a two-year-old boy in Navajo County.

The child, who was unsupervised, had fallen from a second story window in his home.

The child was transported to the hospital where doctors determined the child was in critical condition.

At the time of the incident, the near fatality victim was living with his mother, Angela Shultz, and his stepfather, Joseph Harris.

After a joint DCS and Navajo County Sheriff's Office investigation, the Department removed the near fatality victim from the home and placed him with his biological father. DCS also removed the near fatality victim's sibling and other children from the home and placed them into foster care.

The Department filed a dependency petition in Navajo County Superior Court.

The court determined Ms. Shultz, and Mr. Harris, had abused, neglected, and/or failed to protect the near fatality victim.

DCS has received the following reports regarding the near fatality victim since the child entered DCS care:

On July 16, 2018, the Department received a report that the near fatality victim's biological father and his significant other were neglecting the child. The DCS investigation found evidence to substantiate the allegation. The child was removed from the father's home and placed in a licensed foster home.

In December 2018, the Superior Court returned the near fatality victim and his sibling to Ms. Shultz's home under an in-home dependency after Ms. Shultz successfully participated in DCS services. At this time, Mr. Harris was residing outside of Arizona and was no longer living with Ms. Shultz.

On January 26, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Shultz neglected the near fatality victim and his sibling. The children were removed and placed in a licensed foster home. The investigation is ongoing.

DCS has the following prior history with Ms. Shultz, Mr. Harris and the near fatality victim:

Recipient Name

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On May 4, 2018, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim by Ms. Shultz and Mr. Harris. This report was jointly investigated with the Navajo County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office investigation did not uncover evidence of a crime and no one was charged. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to remove the child.

The Department offered in-home services, but the family declined.

The May 4, 2018, physical abuse allegation was eventually unsubstantiated.