



## Statement on the near fatality of a two-year-old child

### Issue Date:

On May 12, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a two-year-old girl.

The child arrived at the hospital in critical condition after sustaining multiple injuries throughout her body.

The DCS investigation determined the child was in the care of her legal guardian, Stephanie Sanchez, when the injuries occurred.

Prior to the incident, Ms. Sanchez entered into a private guardianship with the near fatality victim's biological parents to care for the child. DCS was not involved with the guardianship.

DCS removed the other children in the home and placed them in foster care. After the near fatality victim was released from the hospital, DCS placed her in a licensed foster home.

DCS provided services to the family until the family's tribe invoked jurisdiction and took over the case in January 2020.

On May 28, 2020, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse against Ms. Sanchez.

DCS has the following history involving Stephanie Sanchez:

On April 5, 2001, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Sanchez neglected her child. The report alleged the child had a large scratch on the child's cheek. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

The near fatality victim's biological parents were involved with the following prior reports:

On April 27, 2017, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by their biological mother. The report alleged the near fatality victim tested positive for marijuana when she was born. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was substantiated and the family was referred for in-home services. While the case was open, an additional report was received.

On May 15, 2017, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim by their biological parents. The report alleged the child suffered a broken

Recipient Name

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collar bone. The mother could not explain how the child sustained the injury. The doctor stated the injury could have occurred during childbirth. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The case was closed after the parents moved onto their tribe's reservation and DCS no longer had jurisdiction.

On March 21, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim's twin siblings by their biological mother. The report alleged the mother used marijuana during her pregnancy. One of the newborns tested positive for marijuana while the other tested negative. The allegations were substantiated. The case was closed after the family's tribe took jurisdiction of the case.