

## **Statement on the near fatality of a one-year-old girl**

**Date Issued: 7/9/21**

On October 29, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a one-year-old girl.

The child arrived at the hospital in critical condition after ingesting fentanyl in her home.

The Department removed the near fatality victim and her siblings from the home and placed them in foster care. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court on November 3, 2020.

On March 16, 2021 the court ruled that the child's mother, Jaquoya Staples, failed to properly supervise the child which contributed to the near fatality. The Department substantiated the allegation against Ms. Staples.

DCS is providing services to the family.

DCS has the following history with the family:

On June 24, 2010, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Staples neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. The report alleged Ms. Staples was unable to properly care for the child. The DCS investigation determined Ms. Staples provided legal authority to a responsible relative who could care for the child. DCS did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On March 26, 2015, the Department received a report alleging the near fatality victim's siblings were neglected by Ms. Staples and the father. The report alleged the children were exposed to a domestic violence incident in the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. DCS offered the family in-home services, but the parents did not participate. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On September 30, 2016, the Department received a report alleging the near fatality victim's siblings were neglected by Ms. Staples and the father. The report alleged the children were exposed to a domestic violence incident in the home. The family agreed to participate in DCS's in-home services with a safety plan that requiring the father not be unsupervised with the children. In January 2017, DCS determined Ms. Staples had violated the safety plan by allowing the father unsupervised access to the children. DCS removed the children and placed them in foster care.

While the children were still in DCS care, the Department received a report on May 3, 2018, alleging Ms. Staples neglected one of the near fatality victim's siblings. The report alleged Ms. Staples recently gave birth to a child and the newborn child tested positive for marijuana at the time of birth. DCS found evidence to support the allegation and the allegation was substantiated. At the time, the other children were in the process of reunifying with Ms. Staples. The newborn was allowed to remain in the home while the family continued to participate in services through the open dependency case. The family successfully completed services and the court dismissed the case on December 14, 2018.

On March 24, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Staples neglected the near fatality victim. The report alleged that Ms. Staples recently gave birth to the near fatality victim the child tested positive for cocaine and marijuana at the time of her birth. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was substantiated and the Department filed an in-home dependency petition for the near fatality victim and her siblings. While the family was receiving in-home services, the Department received another report.

On December 18, 2019, the Department received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse to the near fatality victim and her siblings by Ms. Staples and the father. The report alleged the children were exposed to a domestic violence incident in the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family continued participating in in-home services. DCS recommended the children remain in the Department's legal custody. The dependency was dismissed by the Maricopa County Superior Court on October 14, 2020.