

Statement on the near fatality of a ten-month-old girl:

Date Issued: March 8, 2022

On June 27, 2020, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 10-month-old female was taken to the hospital after ingesting fentanyl. The child was in the care of her mother, Laura Rodriguez. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and the other children in the home were assessed to be safe in the care of their other parent.

The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect against the mother, Laura Rodriguez.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Laura Rodriguez:

On October 21, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to another child by their mother, Laura Rodriguez. The report alleged the mother was using marijuana around the child. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The child was assessed as safe and the case was closed.

On December 17, 2015, a report was received alleging physical abuse to another child by Laura Rodriguez. The report alleged Ms. Rodriguez pinched and pulled the child's ears resulting in injuries to the child. The allegation was substantiated and the case was closed as it was determined the child's biological mother would protect the child.

On March 8, 2017, a report was received alleging physical abuse to another child by Laura Rodriguez. It alleged Ms. Rodriguez grabbed the child's face and/or neck leaving scratches on the child's chin and behind their ear. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was offered in-home services which the family successfully completed. The case was closed on November 14, 2017.

On February 25, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Laura Rodriguez. The report alleged the mother had exposed the child to narcotics during pregnancy. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The child was assessed as safe. The family was provided information on community resources and the case was closed.