

Statement on the fatality of 11 year-old boy, Chaskah Davis Smith

Date Issued: February 1, 2022

On January 30, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of an eleven-year-old child who was taken to the hospital unresponsive and was eventually pronounced deceased. Upon examination, the child had multiple non-accidental injuries.

Following an assessment of child safety, a sibling was removed and placed in foster care.

On January 30, 2022, the child's maternal grandmother, Stephanie Davis, and her husband, Thomas Desharnais, were both arrested for one count of first degree murder and one count of child abuse.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Davis and Mr. Desharnais:

On March 22, 2017, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to Chaskah Davis Smith by Ms. Davis. The report alleged Chaskah Davis Smith had a bruise behind his ear and scratch to his face and that Ms. Davis had hit Chaskah causing the injuries. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on April 14, 2017.

On May 15, 2017, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to Chaskah Davis Smith by Ms. Davis, Mr. Desharnais and another adult. The report alleged Chaskah had deep purple and red bruising under his right eye. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and no services were offered but community resources were provided to the family. The case was closed on July 17, 2017.

On August 31, 2017, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to a child by Mr. Desharnais. The report alleged the child had discoloration to his forehead due to Mr. Desharnais picking up the child and throwing him down. The family moved out of state during the investigation. The alleged concerns were cross reported to the state's social service entity. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on September 18, 2017.