

Statement on the Near Fatality of a nine-year-old boy:

Date Issued: June 13, 2022

On July 7, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition and had tested positive for fentanyl.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and his sibling were removed and placed in licensed foster care.

On July 13, 2021, the Department filed a dependency petition with Maricopa County Superior Court and is providing services to the family.

On October 18, 2021, the court found the mother, Rae Eberts, neglected the child by allowing an active drug user in her home which resulted in the child ingesting fentanyl.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Eberts:

On October 30, 1999, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged concerns that the mother was not following through with medical care for the child. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On April 3, 2001, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged one child was taken to the emergency room for stepping on broken glass. The mother had other children with her who were reported to be extremely dirty. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On April 9, 2003, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the mother was bathing one child in a sink and left the room with the water running while a sibling watched the child. The sibling turned the cold water off which resulted in the child receiving first and second degree burns. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the family was referred to in-home services.

On June 20, 2005, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the home was very filthy. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the mother was provided information on resources within the community.

On August 31, 2006, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the home was filthy and the children had lice. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family was referred to services through an in-home intervention. The case was closed after the family successfully completed the services and the court case was dismissed.

On April 29, 2008, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged one child was observed with a cut under their eye. It was reported the child stated the mother threw a stick at them. Upon investigation, the children reported they were playing with sticks and the child accidentally ran into a stick the mother was holding. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On November 21, 2008, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the home was filthy with dog feces and cockroaches. The investigation determined the home was cluttered but there was no evidence of feces in the home. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

Recipient Name

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On July 10, 2012, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the child had a cigarette burns and possible bruising to their lower back. The investigation determined the child did not have any injuries on their body. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On October 12, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and his sibling by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the near fatality victim and his sibling were causing injuries to each other and the mother was not stopping them from being too rough. The report also alleged the mother handled the children very roughly and that she smelled strongly of marijuana. During the investigation, Ms. Eberts tested positive for other drugs and the children and home were observed to be very dirty. The children were removed and a dependency petition was filed. The allegations were substantiated and the Department provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the mother and the case was closed on December 5, 2019.

On December 16, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Rae Eberts. The report alleged the child was lethargic at school due to the medication they were taking. There was concern the mother was not following up with their doctor to adjust the medication. The investigation determined the mother was adequately caring for the children and following doctor recommendations regarding prescribed medication. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.