

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

Date Issued: September 14, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 1-year-old girl who was found unresponsive in her home while she was in the care of her parents. The child was taken to the hospital in critical condition and tested positive for fentanyl. The father, Javier Orantez, was in possession of drug paraphernalia and was charged with child abuse.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and her siblings were removed and placed in foster care.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Orantez:

On July 30, 2014, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to a child by Mr. Orantez. The report alleged a 3-month-old child had bruising on their cheek due to being bit by the father, Mr. Orantez. The investigation found evidence of abuse and the child was removed and placed in foster care. The allegation was substantiated and the child was reunified with the mother in May 2015.

On March 23, 2021, the Department received a report alleging neglect to multiple children, including the near fatality victim, by Mr. Orantez and the mother. The report alleged Tucson Police Department responded to the home for a domestic violence call. The father had allegedly thrown a rock at the car while it was occupied by one of the children. The report also alleged the father locked the mother out of the home. After multiple attempts, the family was unable to be located and the case was closed on June 2, 2021.

On August 22, 2021, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect to multiple children, including the near fatality victim, by Mr. Orantez and the mother. The report alleged ongoing domestic violence and that on August 22, 2021, Tucson Police responded to the home as the parents were heard yelling loudly at one another. A door was observed with a hole in it and off its hinge. After multiple attempts, the family was unable to be located and the case was closed on October 23, 2021.