

Statement on the Near Fatality of a one-year-old female:

Date Issued: January 10, 2023

On September 14, 2022, the Department of Child Safety (DCS) received a report regarding a one-year-old female who had been taken to the hospital and was determined to be in critical condition. Upon evaluation by doctors, she was diagnosed with severe malnutrition that required admission to the intensive care unit due to the high probability of imminent, life-threatening deterioration from hypoglycemia and severe electrolyte derangements. There is an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the near fatality. On September 16, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court. On November 22, 2022, the court ruled the parents, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo, medically neglected the near-fatality victim.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo:

On May 27, 2012 the Department received a report with allegations of neglect to another child by their mother, Deseray Chavez. The report alleged the child was prenatally exposed to THC. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the family was referred for community services. The family declined additional services offered by the Department and the case was closed.

On July 26, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her mother and father, Deseray Chavez and Joshua Trujillo. The report alleged that the parents were not in agreement with the medical recommendations for a gastrostomy tube for the near-fatality victim. The DCS investigation found that after obtaining additional medical opinions, the parents consented for the surgery to insert the feeding tube. The allegation was unsubstantiated, the parents were provided information on community resources, and the case was closed.

On May 29, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to a sibling by the mother, Deseray Chavez. The report alleged that the child was prenatally exposed to opiates. DCS completed an investigation and the family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was transferred to the in-home section for additional services and ongoing case management. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated and case was still open when two additional reports were received.

On August 24, 2022, the Department received a report with allegations of neglect as to the near-fatality victim and the siblings in the home. The allegations included the parents failing to provide adequate supervision for the children, failing to obtain necessary medical care, and concern for the conditions of the home. The Department implemented a safety plan and was continuing efforts to investigate and engage the family when on September 13, 2022, the children were determined to be unsafe due to the safety plan not being followed. The near fatality victim and the siblings were taken into temporary custody. The siblings were placed with relatives, the near-fatality victim was taken for medical care, and the near fatality report was generated. A dependency petition alleging neglect was filed with Maricopa County Superior Court for all children on September 16, 2022. The Department is providing reunification services to the family.