

Statement on the death of 7-year-old Ariza Chavez-Boilard

Date Issued: June 27, 2024

On May 13, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 7-year-old Ariza Chavez-Boilard, who was discovered deceased at her home due to a gunshot wound on September 9, 2023.

There were no other children residing in the home at the time of the fatality.

Upon investigation, the Department determined Ariza's mother, Christina Boilard, inflicted the injuries to Ariza and caused her death. Ms. Boilard was also discovered deceased at the home due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

There were no services provided.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Boilard:

On May 4, 2012, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged Ms. Boilard presented to the hospital under the influence of substances and was experiencing a miscarriage. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The child residing in the home was assessed as safe with their father. The allegations were unsubstantiated and services were offered to the family. The case was closed on July 31, 2012.

On February 4, 2013, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged the child was being inappropriately touched by another child at daycare. There were additional concerns Ms. Boilard was abusing illegal substances. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on March 29, 2013.

On August 8, 2014, the Department received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged Ms. Boilard attempted to pick the child up from school on a day that was not part of her parenting time. There were additional concerns: Ms. Boilard punched an adult and was bending the child's arm trying to physically grab the child out of the adult's arms. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on January 27, 2015.

On October 19, 2015, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged Ms. Boilard put lidocaine patches prescribed to her on a child when they were complaining of pain. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on March 2, 2016.

Page 2

On April 21, 2016, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Ariza Chavez-Boilard by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged Ms. Boilard used marijuana while pregnant with Ariza. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on June 17, 2016.

On June 21, 2016, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Boilard. The report alleged the child drank out of a cup that previously had bleach in it while at Ms. Boilard's home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on August 19, 2016.

On January 13, 2017, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Ariza by her father and Ms. Boilard. The report alleged Ms. Boilard was using methamphetamine daily and experiencing delusional behaviors. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations and Ariza was taken into DCS custody and placed in a foster home. Another child residing in the home part-time was assessed as safe with their father. A dependency petition was filed with the Cochise County Superior Court and the family was provided services. Ms. Boilard successfully completed services and reunified with Ariza. The dependency matter was dismissed on November 15, 2017, and the DCS case was closed on December 20, 2017. The allegations as to the parents were substantiated.