

## **Statement on the death of an eight-month-old girl, Katya Iniguez-Rivas**

**Date Issued: December 15, 2023**

On July, 2020, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of an eight-month-old girl, Katya Iniguez-Rivas. According to the report, Katya was found unresponsive in the mother's vehicle after she and her mother, Ala Aracely Rivas Perez, had been in the vehicle for approximately 6 hours. She was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased. The medical examiner determined Katya's cause of death to be probable heat stroke and dehydration secondary to prolonged exposure to heat in an enclosed vehicle.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home remained in their mother's care.

The Department provided services to the family. The family completed offered services and the case was closed on May 11, 2021.

The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Katya by her mother, Ala Aracely Rivas Perez, on September 12, 2023.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Katya Iniguez-Rivas or the child's father.

DCS received the following prior report involving the child's mother, Ala Aracely Rivas Perez:

On April 20, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Ala Aracely Rivas Perez. The report alleged that the mother had missed an important medical appointment for her child. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations, as it was confirmed that the mother had rescheduled and attended the missed appointment. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on May 12, 2017.