

Statement on the death of a newborn male, Logan Seiser

Date Issued: September 13, 2022

On May 6, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a deceased newborn male who was brought to the hospital by Nancy Bell. The child appeared to be severely malnourished. Upon investigation, it was determined the mother, Jessica Seiser, had given the newborn to Ms. Bell days prior, as she was unable to care for the child.

Ms. Bell and Ms. Seiser were charged with first degree murder and child abuse on May 12, 2022.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in Ms. Bell and Ms. Seiser's care were removed and placed in foster care.

A dependency petition was filed regarding Ms. Seiser's other children on May 16, 2022. A dependency petition was filed regarding Ms. Bell's child on May 25, 2022. The Department is providing services to the families.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Nancy Bell:

On October 28, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the mother had a mental illness and was not taking her prescribed medication. It also alleged she consumed large amounts of alcohol. The case remained open when an additional report was received. The allegations regarding this report were unsubstantiated.

On December 21, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the mother was residing with a sex offender who cared for her children. The report also alleged there was physical fighting in the home. The case remained open when an additional report was received. The allegations regarding this report were unsubstantiated.

On February 25, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the mother admitted she was pregnant and using drugs and alcohol. It also alleged domestic violence in the home. Upon investigation, the family was assessed as safe and denied any physical violence. The sex offender from the prior report was not involved and had not resided in the home since 2014. The allegations were unsubstantiated and all three reports were closed.

On November 29, 2016, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Bell. The report was generated after the birth of the child was confirmed as there were prior communications to the hotline alleging the mother was using alcohol and drugs while she was pregnant. The allegation was unsubstantiated as there was a lack of evidence of abuse or neglect and the case was closed.

On March 8, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Bell. The report alleged there was substance abuse in the home and fighting between the parents. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed after Ms. Bell reportedly kicked the father out of the home.

On May 11, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to three children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the mother would leave the children in a vehicle outside while she went inside the home and assaulted the father. The allegations were unsubstantiated as there was insufficient evidence and no disclosures of abuse or neglect. The case was closed.

On September 7, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the family was homeless and the children were in poor condition. It also alleged possible substance abuse. The case remained open when additional reports were received. The allegations regarding this report were unsubstantiated.

On October 6th, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to three children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the parents were homeless and very late picking up the children from school. The case remained open when an additional report was received. The allegations of neglect were substantiated.

On October 17th, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to three children by Ms. Bell. The report alleged the family was homeless and living out of their vehicle. It was alleged that 911 was called when the mother was observed passed out in the vehicle after using opiates. The three children were removed and a dependency petition was filed. The allegations of neglect were substantiated. The dependency was dismissed in 2019 after a permanent guardianship was established.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Jessica Seiser:

On September 17, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Seiser. The report alleged the child was born substance exposed to methamphetamine. The allegation was substantiated and a safety plan was put in place while the mother participated in services. The safety plan was lifted and the case was closed after the mother continued to demonstrate sobriety.

On September 9, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Seiser. The report alleged the child was born substance exposed to methamphetamine. The child was removed and placed in foster care. A dependency petition was filed and the allegation was substantiated. A safety plan remained in place for the other children as to both parents. The child was eventually adopted and the other children remained with their father.