

Statement on the fatality of three-year-old girl, Scarlett Hughes:

Date Issued: November 21, 2022

On May 10, 2019, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 3-month-old girl, Scarlett Hughes. It was alleged that the father had fallen into the pool with the child in his arms. The child was taken to the hospital and was pronounced deceased on May 12, 2019. During the investigation, it was determined that the injuries Scarlett received were non-accidental and the explanations given by the parents were not consistent with the injuries.

A joint investigation was conducted with Glendale Police Department. The police investigation is closed with no charges filed.

On May 29, 2019, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Juvenile Court regarding the surviving child. Over the course of the next two years, the Department provided services to the family.

On May 27, 2021, the court ruled that Mr. Hughes and Ms. Shocklee's home was unfit by reason of abuse and/or neglect which resulted in Scarlett's death.

DCS has the following history with Scarlett Hughes, and/or Ms. Shocklee:

On October 24, 2016, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Shocklee neglected another child. The report alleged Ms. Shocklee tested positive for marijuana while she was pregnant. At the time of birth, the child tested negative and the mother was not tested. The Department offered the family services but the family declined to participate. DCS provided the family with information regarding resources in the community. The allegation was substantiated and the case was closed.

On February 12, 2019, the Department received a report alleging Ms. Shocklee neglected Scarlett. The report alleged Ms. Shocklee tested positive for marijuana at the time of birth. No safety concerns to either child were observed during the investigation. The parents were given information on resources in the community. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.