

## **Statement on the death of 3-year-old Jace Welch and near fatality of an 8-year-old sibling**

**Date Issued: May 9, 2024**

On June 27, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a motor vehicle crash which resulted in the fatality of 3-year-old Jace Welch and the near fatality of a sibling. It was reported the children in the vehicle were not restrained.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and siblings were assessed as safe.

On April 5, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the mother, Shanta Bach, to the children.

There were no services provided.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Bach:

On December 14, 2014, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by Ms. Bach and the child's father. The report alleged Ms. Bach was not providing for the near fatality victim's basic needs. It alleged the child was not properly dressed for the weather and that Ms. Bach was not properly restraining the child in a car seat. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family was provided with daycare services. The case was closed on March 10, 2015.