



Statement on the death of a 9-month-old boy, Alisona Maafu

Date Issued: April 28, 2023

On May 10, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 9-month-old male who was found unresponsive in an adult bed. The child was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

It was determined the child died of asphyxia due to the unsafe sleep environment.

On April 19, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect by the father, Pohiva Maafu.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the family:

On August 15, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to multiple children by Mr. Maafu and the mother. The report alleged the parents were leaving the children home alone and that one of the children had to feed the baby. The allegations were unsubstantiated due to a lack of evidence; however, in-home services were referred to further assist the family. The services were completed and the case was closed.

On April 14, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Alisona by Mr. Maafu and the mother. The report alleged the child was at the hospital with a skull fracture and the parents had no explanation for the injury. It was determined the skull fracture was consistent with an accidental fall. Additionally, law enforcement did not find evidence of a crime. During the investigation, another child was observed with a bruise on their arm. Mr. Maafu admitted to disciplining the child with a belt and the allegation was substantiated. Mr. Maafu agreed to not physically discipline the children. The children were assessed as safe with the parents and the case was closed.