

Statement on the death of 3-year-old Selma Felix

Date Issued: May 8, 2024

On January 5, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 3-year-old, Selma Felix, who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive after ingesting fentanyl in the home while in the care of her mother, Alyssa Felix. The child was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were taken into custody and placed with a relative.

On December 15, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court, alleging neglect by Alyssa Felix. On April 16, 2024, the court found the mother, Ms. Felix, neglected Selma Felix and her siblings.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Felix:

On July 14, 2015, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Felix. The report alleged that Ms. Felix was positive for oxycodone at the child's birth and had been using the medication during the pregnancy. The allegations were substantiated and the family was referred for and completed services with the Department. The children were assessed as safe in Ms. Felix's care and the case was closed on January 7, 2016.

On February 26, 2020, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Selma Felix and her siblings by their mother, Ms. Felix. The report alleged that Ms. Felix gave birth to Selma Felix and was positive for methadone, fentanyl, and oxycodone at the time of Selma's birth. Following an assessment of child safety, a safety plan was implemented and a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court for all the children. The mother engaged in recommended services and the children were assessed as safe in her care without a safety plan in place. The dependency was dismissed on January 13, 2021, and the allegations were unsubstantiated as to Ms. Felix. The Department remained involved with the family until the case closed in April 2021.