

## Statement on the death of 4-month-old Estrella Wools

**Date Issued: January 16, 2025**

On February 1, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-month-old, Estrella Wools, who was found unresponsive on the couch after being left with a propped bottle by other adult, Antania Surakus. Estrella was transported to the hospital where she was later pronounced deceased.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other foster child that was placed in the home was removed and placed with another foster care provider. The other children who reside in the home were assessed as safe.

On December 18, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Estrella by Ms. Surakus.

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Surakus:

On August 17, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Surkas. The report alleged that Ms. Surkas had used marijuana during her pregnancy, exposing the child to THC in utero. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

DCS received the following prior report involving the child, Estrella Wools:

On October 8, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to Estrella by her mother. The report alleged that the mother used methamphetamine during her pregnancy, exposing Estrella to this substance. Following an assessment of child safety, Estrella was placed with in foster care and a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on October 14, 2021. The Department was providing services to the family when the fatality report was received.