

Amendments to the information originally posted on 9/14/22 are displayed below in red.

Statement on the near fatality of a one-year-old girl

Date Issued: July 11, 2023

On February 10, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 1-year-old girl who was found unresponsive in her home while she was in the care of her parents. The child was taken to the hospital in critical condition and tested positive for fentanyl. The father, Javier Orantez, was in possession of drug paraphernalia and was charged with child abuse. **On March 2, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court. On April 21, 2022, the court found that the mother, Vanessa Ramirez, failed to protect the child from abuse or neglect.**

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and her siblings were removed and placed in foster care.

The Department **provided** services to the family.

The children were reunified with Ms. Ramirez and the dependency was dismissed on May 12, 2023.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Orantez **and Ms. Ramirez:**

On July 30, 2014, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse to a child by Mr. Orantez **and neglect to the child by Ms. Ramirez.** The report alleged a 3-month-old child had bruising on their cheek due to being bit by the father, Mr. Orantez. The investigation found evidence of abuse **and failure to protect the child from abuse.** The child was removed and placed in foster care. The allegations **were** substantiated and the child was reunified with **Ms. Ramirez** in May 2015.

On April 5, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Ramirez. The report alleged the family's living conditions were unsanitary and that the child did not have required services in place to support their developmental needs. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations of neglect. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed. The family was provided with daycare and community services.

On March 23, 2021, the Department received a report alleging neglect to multiple children, including the near fatality victim, by Mr. Orantez and the mother, **Ms. Ramirez.** The report alleged Tucson Police Department responded to the home for a domestic violence call. The father had allegedly thrown a rock at the car while it was occupied by one of the children. The report also alleged the father locked the mother out of the home. After multiple attempts, the family was unable to be located and the case was closed on June 2, 2021.

On August 22, 2021, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect to multiple children, including the near fatality victim, by Mr. Orantez and the mother, **Ms. Ramirez.** The report alleged ongoing domestic violence and that on August 22, 2021, Tucson Police responded to the home as the parents were heard yelling loudly at one another. A door was observed with a hole in it and off its hinge. After multiple attempts, the family was unable to be located and the case was closed on October 23, 2021.