

Statement on the near fatality of a ten-year-old female child:

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On December 9, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 10-year-old child who was taken to the hospital. The child was determined to be in serious condition due to multiple open wounds, broken bones, emaciation and severe malnutrition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was also placed in a licensed foster home. The children have since been placed together in the same licensed foster home.

On December 15, 2021, a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court. On August 3, 2022, the court made a finding that the child's mother, Chloe Rae Sergent and the mother's significant other, Keola Kalani Wimbish abused the near fatality victim.

On April 12, 2022, Ms. Sergent and Mr. Wimbish were indicted on several counts of child abuse.

The Department is providing supportive services to the children and will continue to assess for other services to be provided to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Sergent and Mr. Wimbish:

On July 29, 2015, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by her father and Ms. Sergent. The report alleged Ms. Sergent took the child to a relative's home and left. There were concerns the child was hungry and had a blister on her foot. There were additional concerns Ms. Sergent was using illegal substances. The DCS investigation resulted in the child coming into DCS custody. A dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on August 3, 2015. The family successfully completed the services. The dependency matter was dismissed on January 18, 2017.

On February 7, 2017, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by Ms. Sergent. The report alleged Ms. Sergent was hitting the child with a belt or hangar for discipline and the child was fearful of returning home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations and assessed the child as safe with Ms. Sergent. The allegations were unsubstantiated and no services were provided. The case was closed on March 26, 2017.

On March 29, 2021, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and her siblings by the near fatality victim's father, Ms. Sergent and Mr. Wimbish. The report alleged Ms. Sergent was using substances while pregnant. The DCS investigation resulted in a safety plan being implemented with relatives supervising contact with the children. An in-home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on April 19, 2021. The family successfully completed services and the dependency matter was dismissed prior to an adjudication. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on October 21, 2021.