



## **Statement on the near death of a four-year-old girl**

**Date Issued: September 25, 2023**

On January 7, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a four-year-old girl due to a gunshot wound to the head. The near fatality victim was transported to the hospital and determined to be in critical condition.

On January 25, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa County Superior Court alleging neglect by the mother, Hivana Silfator. On September 6, 2023, the court found Ms. Silfator neglected the near fatality victim and her siblings by failing to provide a safe and effective home environment or to provide the children with appropriate supervision.

A joint investigation was completed with the Phoenix Police Department.

DCS removed the other children living in the home and placed them with relatives. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed with the same relatives.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the family:

On November 27, 2014, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Silfator. The report alleged the child was born exposed to marijuana in utero. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The family was offered in-home services. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on May 5, 2016.

On October 9, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by Ms. Silfator. The report alleged the near fatality victim was born exposed to marijuana in utero. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on December 11, 2018, after the family was referred for services within the community.