

David Lujan, Cabinet Executive Officer/Executive Deputy Director Katie Hobbs, Governor

Statement on the near death of three-year-old female

Date Issued: March 13, 2024

On February 7, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 3-year-old female child who was found unresponsive at home and brought to the hospital by EMS services. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to methadone ingestion. It was determined the mother, Latonya Reamey, accidentally provided the child with methadone.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe in the home under a safety plan with relatives. The family was referred for and completed in-home services with the Department. The case was closed on June 30, 2023.

On February 13, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to the child by their mother, Latonya Reamey.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the child's mother, Latonya Reamey:

On May 7, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the mother, Latonya Reamey. The report alleged Ms. Reamey was using substances and allowing other family members to provide substances to the child. The investigation did not find evidence to support these allegations. There were no services provided to the family. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on July 9, 2011.

On July 28, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by the mother, Latonya Reamey, and the child's father. The report alleged Ms. Reamey and the father were using substances and not meeting the child's basic needs. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was provided with community resources. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on April 11, 2015.

On October 14, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Latonya Reamey. The report alleged the near fatality victim was born exposed to methadone and heroin in utero. The child was assessed as safe. Ms. Reamey agreed to participate in in-home services following the child being discharged from the hospital. The family successfully completed services. The allegation was substantiated and the case was closed on December 18, 2020.

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