

## Statement on the near death of a sixteen-year-old male

**Date Issued: April 15, 2024**

On November 5, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near-fatality of a 16-year-old male who was found unresponsive after being left to sleep overnight outside of the home in cold weather. The child was transported to the hospital. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and their sibling were taken into custody and placed in licensed foster care.

On November 16, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Gila County Superior Court. On November 21, 2023, the court found that the mother, Tamara Priddy, neglected the near fatality victim and his sibling.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mrs. Tamara Priddy:

On June 17, 2019, report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by the near fatality victim's father and mother, Tamara Priddy. The report alleged that the father is verbally and physically abusive to the children in the home and that Mrs. Priddy does not intervene. The investigation did not find evidence of physical abuse but did determine that the father engaged in verbal domestic violence with the child, in which Mrs. Priddy did not intervene. These verbal altercations were found to have caused emotional distress that led to inpatient hospitalization of a child. The allegations of neglect by the father and mother, Tamara Priddy, were substantiated. The family declined services offered by the Department and the case was closed on October 4, 2019.

On February 7, 2020, a report was received alleging physical abuse to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their father, and neglect by their mother, Tamara Priddy. The report alleged that the father is physically abusive to the children and that mother is aware and allows it to happen. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family declined services offered by the Department and the case was closed on May 15, 2020.

On March 5, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Tamara Priddy. The report alleged that Mrs. Priddy was made aware that a visiting child was injured by a firearm at her home and she did intervene or contact emergency services. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate Mrs. Priddy without success. The case was closed as unable to locate on August 14, 2023.