

Statement on the near death of eight-month-old male

Date Issued: April 18, 2024

On September 10, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an eight-month-old male child. The child was brought to the hospital by his parents due to concerns for the child's weight. Upon evaluation, it was determined that the child was in serious condition and was diagnosed with failure to thrive, protein malnutrition and developmental delays.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim was taken into custody and placed with in a licensed foster care home.

On September 16, 2022, the department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court, alleging neglect by Amber Runningwolf and David Jordan. On March 21, 2023, the court ruled the parents, Amber Runningwolf and David Jordan, neglected the near fatality victim.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Runningwolf:

On August 11, 2008, the Department received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse towards children by mother, Amber Runningwolf. The report alleged Ms. Runningwolf was causing injuries to a 3-year-old child and failing to meet the needs of a 1-year-old child. There were also concerns of Ms. Runningwolf abusing substances. The investigation did not find evidence to support these allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated against Ms. Runningwolf and the case was closed on August 27, 2008.

On November 7, 2013, the Department received a report alleging neglect toward children by mother, Amber Runningwolf and the children's father. The report alleged the children (aged 8, 6, 4, 1 and 2-month-old) were not clean and the home was found to be in subpar conditions without having any food or running water. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated against Ms. Runningwolf and the father. A list of community resources and child care was offered to the family. The case was closed on February 23, 2015.

On July 10, 2019, the Department received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse toward a child by mother and step-father. The report alleged step-father was being physically abusive to a 14-year-old child. There were also concerns regarding the cleanliness of the home. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations against Ms. Runningwolf and step-father were unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on September 27, 2019.

On October 17, 2019, the Department received a report alleging neglect towards the children by mother, Amber Runningwolf and the children's father. The report alleged Ms. Runningwolf left a 6-month-old child alone in a car for extended periods of time and would have the siblings go check on the child. There were also concerns

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regarding the cleanliness of the home. The investigation found evidence to support the allegations of neglect and an out of home Dependency was filed. The children's father was able to remedy the circumstances that brought the children into DCS care and the Dependency was dismissed on May 6, 2021.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Jordan:

On December 11, 2010, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by her father, David Jordan. The report alleged Mr. Jordan stabbed his ex-wife while their child was in the other room. The DCS investigation assessed the child to be safe with mother. Mr. Jordan was charged with attempted homicide, aggravated assault and endangerment. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on April 6, 2011.