

Statement on the near fatality of a 1-year-old female

Date Issued: September 17, 2024

On June 11, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old female who was found unresponsive after being left unsupervised in a pack-and-play outside of the home. The child was transported to the hospital. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition with heat exhaustion and dehydration.

The Department conducted a joint investigation with the Yuma Police Department. As a result of the near fatality investigation, the child's father, Enrique Gutierrez Jr., was charged with and convicted of child abuse in the Yuma County Superior Court.

Upon release from the hospital, the child was placed with relatives. There were no other children in the home.

On June 15, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yuma County Superior Court. On July 16, 2023, the court found that the child's parents, Enrique Gutierrez Jr. and Dalia Haueter-Gonzalez, neglected the child.

The Department provided services to the family. Ultimately, the court appointed relatives as the child's permanent guardians and the dependency was dismissed. The allegations of neglect to the child by her parents were substantiated and the case was closed.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Haueter-Gonzalez and Mr. Gutierrez:

On September 10, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by her mother, Ms. Haueter-Gonzalez. The report alleged that the mother used marijuana, methadone, and fentanyl during her pregnancy. The investigation assessed the baby to be safe in her parents' care with a safety plan in place. The safety plan included the parents having supervision while parenting the child due to substance abuse concerns for both parents. The family was referred for services by the Department. Ms. Haueter-Gonzalez completed the requested services, the safety plan was lifted, and the child was assessed as safe in her mother's care. The allegation of neglect was substantiated as to Ms. Haueter-Gonzalez and the case was closed on March 7, 2023.