

Statement on the near death of a 4-year-old male child

Date Issued: May 13, 2024

On March 30, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 4-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after sustaining an accidental gunshot wound to the chest. The child obtained an unsecured firearm which resulted in the near fatality victim being shot in the presence of Laquasha Sebastian.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as safe with their mother. The near fatality victim was taken into DCS custody and a dependency petition was filed. Upon release from the hospital, the near fatality victim was placed with a relative.

On March 27, 2024, Laquasha Sebastian was indicted by a Maricopa County grand jury with one count of child abuse.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mrs. Sebastian:

On May 1, 2023, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by his father and significant other, Laquasha Sebastian. The report alleged concerns of a verbal altercation between the adults and disassembled firearms in the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and no services were provided to the family. The case was closed on May 26, 2023.