

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

Date Issued: June 6, 2024

On January 5, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old male who was taken to the hospital for a fentanyl overdose. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near-fatality victim and the other children in the home were taken into custody and placed in foster care before transitioning to a relative caregiver.

On March 29, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court. On April 21, 2022, the court ruled that the parents, Sonny Casillas and Erika Saavedra, neglected the near fatality victim and his siblings.

The Department provided services to the family. The children were reunified with their parents and the dependency was dismissed on March 6, 2023.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Casillas and Ms. Saavedra:

On September 21, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect of two children by their parents, Mr. Casillas and Ms. Saavedra. The report alleged concerns for domestic violence between the parents and lack of appropriate supervision. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations, and the children were assessed as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family was provided with information on services available in the community. The case was closed on November 20, 2020.

On April 1, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect of three children by their parents, Mr. Casillas and Ms. Saavedra. The report alleged there was a domestic dispute between the parents and that Mr. Casillas is using illegal substances. The DCS investigation assessed the children as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the family declined services offered by the Department. The case was closed on July 16, 2021.