

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

**Date Issued: June 11, 2024**

On September 16, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding an 8-month-old child who was brought to the hospital with concerns of crossing the eyes and being inconsolable. The child also presented with multiple injuries in different stages of healing, which were determined to be from non-accidental trauma. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition, experiencing a low heart rate and seizure activity, requiring intubation.

Following an assessment of child safety, the child was placed in a licensed DDD foster home. There were no other children in the home.

On September 20, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court alleging abuse and/or neglect to the near-fatality victim. On October 18, 2023, the court found the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, neglected the child by leaving him in the care of an inappropriate caregiver and that her inability to provide appropriate supervision caused substantial harm to the child.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Zazueta:

On January 13, 2022, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by the father and mother, Ms. Zazueta. The report alleged concerns regarding ongoing domestic violence between the parents, substance use and the condition of the home. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were substantiated and a relative filed for guardianship to obtain custody for the child.

An additional report was received on April 2, 2022, alleging neglect to a child by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and other adults. The report alleged concerns regarding another adult caring for the child with an ongoing criminal investigation and the living conditions of the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated to the mother, Jasmin Zazueta, and other adults. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

On December 21, 2022, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near-fatality victim by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta. The report alleged the child was exposed to marijuana in utero. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated. No services were offered to the family and the case was closed.

On September 12, 2023, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near-fatality victim by the mother, Jasmin Zazueta. The report alleged concerns of severe neglect and delays for the near-fatality victim. An investigation was initiated and still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred.