

## **Statement on the near fatality of a one-month-old girl**

**Date Issued: June 12, 2024**

On March 20, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a one-month-old child who was taken to the hospital. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition and was diagnosed with failure to thrive and malnutrition. The investigation determined that the mother, Elisa Martinez, and her significant other, Gabriel Ramirez, had not consistently provided the child with food or medical care prior to her hospitalization.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim remained in the home with a safety plan in place. The other children in the home were assessed as safe.

The Department provided services to family and the case was closed on November 17, 2021.

On December 5, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by Gabriel Ramirez. On May 23, 2024, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the mother, Elisa Martinez.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Mr. Ramirez.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Martinez:

On July 22, 2020, a report was received alleging physical abuse to two children by Ms. Martinez. The report alleged Ms. Martinez was driving in a vehicle and none of the children were properly restrained when the family was involved in an accident. The children were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The mother agreed to use proper car seats in the future. The children were assessed as safe and the allegations were unsubstantiated. The case was closed on September 24, 2020.