

Statement on the near death of 2-year-old male

Date Issued: June 19, 2024

On April 18, 2022, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old male who was taken to the hospital for a fentanyl overdose. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition needing multiple doses of Narcan.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim was taken into Department custody and placed with a relative. There were no other children in the home.

On April 25, 2022, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Yavapai County Superior Court. On June 24, 2022, the court found that the mother, Amanda Harbeson, neglected the child. On April 21, 2022, Amanda Harbeson was charged with one count of child abuse per domestic violence. On June 2, 2022, Amanda Harbeson was convicted of one count of child abuse per domestic violence.

The Department provided services to the family. The child reunified with their mother and the dependency was dismissed on December 20, 2023.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mrs. Harbeson:

On May 28, 2019, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Amanda Harbeson. The report alleged the child was exposed to marijuana in utero. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated and the family was provided with information on services available in the community. The case was closed on June 13, 2019.

On March 21, 2022, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by the mother, Amanda Harbeson, and another adult. The report alleged concerns about the conditions of the home. An investigation was initiated and was still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred.