

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

Date Issued: August 6, 2024

On April 25, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-year-old male who was found minimally responsive in the family home. The child was transported to the hospital where he was determined to be in critical condition due to fentanyl ingestion. During a search of the home, police located fentanyl in the bedroom the parents shared with the child and it was discovered that Mr. Powell had recently relapsed.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and his sibling were assessed as safe in the care of their mother, Karina Saenz, with a safety plan in place for any contact with father, Desmond Powell.

On May 23, 2023, a dependency petition was filed with the Pima County Superior Court. On August 11, 2023, the court found that the parents, Desmond Powell and Karina Saenz, neglected the child.

The Department provided services to the family. The family engaged in services offered by the Department and the dependency was dismissed on January 4, 2024.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Saenz:

On December 29, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Ms. Saenz. The report alleged that Ms. Saenz was residing with her child in a home with other adults who were known substance users and that substance use was impacting Ms. Saenz's ability to care for the child. DCS initiated an investigation and efforts were made to locate the family without success and the case was closed.