

## Statement on the death of 3-month-old Zariah Clay

**Date Issued: January 22, 2025**

On January 5, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 3-month-old Zariah Clay. Zariah was pronounced deceased after co-sleeping in adult bed with her mother, Joni Mitchell, and her father.

There were no other children in the home.

The Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Zariah by her mother, Ms. Mitchell.

There were no services provided by the Department.

There were no DCS prior reports involving the child's father.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Mitchell:

On May 26, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to Zariah by her mother, Ms. Mitchell. The report alleged that Ms. Mitchell used marijuana during her pregnancy. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation and the child was assessed as safe. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.