

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

Date Issued: March 15, 2023

On February 4, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a one-year-old male who had been taken to the hospital in serious condition. Upon examination, the child had severe hypotonia and respiratory failure. The parents had not taken the child to medical appointments and were not following up on his medical needs.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and his sibling were placed in foster care.

The Department filed a dependency petition with the Mohave County Superior Court on April 13, 2021.

On July 15, 2021, the parents, John Jones and Nicole Sellers, did not contest the allegations and the Court granted the dependency petition. The Department substantiated the allegations of neglect by the parents.

The Department provided services to the family. The children were reunified with the parents and the case was closed on February 1, 2022.

DCS received the following prior report involving John Jones, Nicole Sellers, and the near fatality victim:

On September 23, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to the child by his parents, John Jones and Nicole Sellers. The report alleged the child was developmentally delayed and the parents were not seeking medical care for the child. The allegations were substantiated as to both parents. The case was transferred to in-home staff where the case remained open when the near fatality report was received on February 4, 2021.