

Statement on the near fatality of a two-month-old boy

Date Issued: March 31, 2023

On August 19, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a two-month-old male who was taken to his primary care physician due to abnormal breathing and fussiness. The child was transferred to the hospital. Upon evaluation, the child was determined to be in critical condition with multiple fractures.

The investigation of the near fatality report resulted in the child being placed in foster care after his release from the hospital. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Navajo County Superior Court on August 26, 2021 and is providing services to the family. On April 27, 2022, the court found the mother, Alysha Wood, physically abused the child and/or neglected to protect the child from physical abuse. On February 18, 2022, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse against the other caregiver, Isaiah Whitaker.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Wood:

On June 24, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report alleging neglect of the child by the mother, Ms. Wood. The report alleged that the mother prenatally exposed the child to marijuana. The DCS investigation initially assessed the child as safe in the mother's care, however this investigation was still in progress when the near fatality incident occurred. The allegation was substantiated, the child was placed in foster care, and the family is receiving services.