

Statement on the near fatality of a three-year-old boy:

Date Issued: March 18, 2022

On March 30, 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 3-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after a near drowning incident. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim was assessed as safe.

On February 23, 2022, the Department substantiated the allegations of neglect of the child by mother, Sedona Funderburg and her significant other, Xavier Hyser.

The Department did not provide services to the family. The case was closed on July 20, 2021.

There were no prior reports involving Xavier Hyser.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms Funderburg:

On February 16, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the child by his father and Ms. Funderburg. The report alleged the parents were using marijuana in the home and drinking alcohol while caring for the child. The report also alleged Ms. Funderburg had blown marijuana smoke in the child's face. Additionally, it alleged the child had a diaper rash that was not being treated and the child was being left unsupervised. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The case was still open when the next report was received.

On February 20, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the child by his father and Ms. Funderburg. The report alleged Ms. Funderburg was hiding marijuana in the child's toys. There were additional concerns of domestic violence in the presence of the child. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was referred for services in the community and provided daycare. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on April 6, 2018.

On June 20, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the child by his father and Ms. Funderburg. The report alleged Ms. Funderburg was leaving the child unsupervised for hours during the day to drink alcohol. There were additional concerns alleging the child was not being fed. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was referred for in-home services, which they completed successfully. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on October 26, 2018.

On February 13, 2019, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the child by Ms. Funderburg. The report alleged the child had a mark on his eyebrow from falling off a stool. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was provided community resources and daycare. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on April 19, 2019.