

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

**Date Issued: March 18, 2022**

On June 14 2021, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the near fatality of a 1-year-old child who was taken to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to fentanyl ingestion. The child is believed to have found the fentanyl pill on the floor at his home while in the care of his mother, Antoinette Malone.

Upon release from the hospital, a safety plan was implemented with relatives requiring the contact between the parents and child be monitored. An in-home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on July 14, 2021. There were no other children in the home at the time of the incident.

On October 27, 2021, the court found the near fatality victim's mother, Antoinette Malone, failed to protect the near fatality victim.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Malone:

On January 9, 2020, the Department received a report alleging neglect to the near fatality victim by Ms. Malone. The report alleged Ms. Malone used marijuana before finding out she was pregnant. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was offered child care services which were declined. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the case was closed on March 13, 2020.