

Statement on the death of 17-year-old, Michael Smith

Date Issued: February 12, 2024

On May 8, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 17-year-old, Michael Smith, who was found unresponsive at home. The child was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was assessed as safe.

On August 22, 2023, the parents, Kelly Harris and Robert Smith were indicted on first degree murder and child abuse charges.

The Department offered services to the parents; however, they declined to participate.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Harris and Mr. Smith:

On April 2, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Michael Smith by Ms. Harris and Mr. Smith. The report alleged a Michael had a history of untreated eczema. Additionally, the report alleged Michael had watery and red eyes causing him to not be able to focus due to rubbing and the parents were not addressing the concern. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on May 31, 2018.