

Statement on the near death of a 1-month-old male

Date Issued: June 3, 2024

On May 7, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 1-month-old child who had been brought to the hospital by a family member due to concerns of neglect. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in serious condition with severe malnutrition and dehydration, requiring intubation.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was placed in licensed foster care. Upon release from the hospital, the near-fatality victim was also placed in licensed foster care.

On May 19, 2023, Kira Jones was indicted by a Pima County grand jury with two counts of child abuse and three counts of drug possession. Kira Jones was convicted of child abuse on February 13, 2024, and is serving 7.5 years in prison with 25 years of probation supervision. On May 26, 2023, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court. On July 14, 2023, the court found the mother, Kira Jones, neglected the near fatality victim.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Jones:

On December 26, 2004, the Department received a report alleging neglect of a child by Ms. Jones. The report alleged concerns of substance use by Ms. Jones while caring for a 3-week-old child. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the child's removal from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and was providing services to the family. Parental rights were relinquished to this child, and they were adopted by a relative.

On September 9, 2008, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by their father and the mother, Ms. Jones. The report alleged concerns about the conditions of the home. The Department also discovered ongoing substance abuse along with criminal activity from both parents. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court. The child was placed out of the home and services were provided to the family. Parental rights were terminated to this child and they were adopted.

On August 19, 2013, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by their father and the mother, Kira Jones. The report alleged that the child was born exposed to amphetamines and opiates. The DCS investigation found evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the child's removal from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and was providing services to the family. Parental rights were terminated to this child, and they were adopted.