

Statement on the near-fatality of a 2-year-old female

Date Issued: July 9, 2024

On June 4, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a 2-year-old female who was transported to the hospital after being found unresponsive at home. Upon examination, the child was determined to be in critical condition due to exposure to substances.

Following an assessment of child safety, the near fatality victim and a sibling were removed from the home and placed with relatives.

On June 7, 2024, the Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court.

On June 14, 2024, the child's mother, Christina Culp, was indicted by a Pima County Grand Jury for child abuse due to placing the child in a situation where her health was endangered by exposing the child to fentanyl and/or methamphetamine.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Culp:

On December 12, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Ms. Culp. The report alleged that Ms. Culp had used substances prior to learning she was pregnant. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation of neglect. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The family participated in services offered by the Department and the case was closed on May 21, 2019.

On February 16, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Ms. Culp, and their father. The report alleged that Ms. Culp gave birth to the near fatality victim and had used multiple substances during the pregnancy. The allegation was substantiated and resulted in the removal of the children from the home. The Department filed a dependency petition with the Pima County Superior Court and provided services to the family. The children were reunified with their parents and the dependency was dismissed on June 21, 2023.

On January 21, 2023, a report was received alleging neglect to the near fatality victim and a sibling by their mother, Ms. Culp, and their father. The report alleged a physical dispute between the parents that happened in front of the children. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations of neglect. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on February 2, 2024.

On February 20, 2024, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Ms. Culp. The report alleged that the child lost a tooth after being kicked in the mouth by their mother, Ms. Culp. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation of physical abuse. The allegations were

unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed on April 24, 2024.