



## **Statement on the death of a one-year-old boy, Emery Patterson**

**Date Issued: July 3, 2023**

On September 19, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 1-year-old Emery Patterson who had been found unresponsive at home. Emery was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The investigation determined the cause of death was fentanyl intoxication.

On November 22, 2022, the mother, Gabrielle Marshall, was indicted on charges of first-degree murder, child abuse, tampering with physical evidence and attempting to commit tampering with physical evidence.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home part-time was assessed as being safe with their other parent.

There were no services provided to the family by the Department.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the family:

On September 17, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father and mother, Ms. Marshall. The report alleged their child was attending school with a strong odor of marijuana. There were additional concerns of the child appearing dirty and wearing the same clothes multiple days in a row. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was provided with information on services available in the community. The case was closed on January 5, 2020 and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On January 30, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father and mother, Ms. Marshall. The report alleged there was drug paraphernalia, weapons, and illicit drugs found in the home. There were additional concerns for the condition of the home. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The family was offered in-home services. The case was closed on July 30, 2020 and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

On August 24, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to Emery Patterson by his father and mother, Ms. Marshall. The report alleged Emery was born exposed to methadone and fentanyl in utero. The family agreed to participate in in-home services but ultimately an in-home dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on March, 9, 2022. The parents were provided with services and the dependency was dismissed on June 1, 2022. The allegations were substantiated.