

## **Statement on the death of one-year-old, Ian Garcia-Machado**

**Date Issued: March 12, 2024**

On February 8, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-year-old Ian Garcia-Machado who was transported to the hospital and pronounced deceased. The child was found to have multiple severe injuries.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was placed with relatives.

The child's mother, Maria Perez-Machado, and her significant other, Francisco Felix-Higuera, were both charged with first degree murder and child abuse due to Ian's death.

The Department is providing services to the family.

DCS received the following prior report involving Ms. Perez-Machado:

On August 10, 2023, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a child by Ms. Perez-Machado. The report alleged Ms. Perez-Machado had given birth to a child and tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana. The report also alleged alcohol use by Ms. Perez-Machado during the pregnancy. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegations. The allegation was unsubstantiated and no services were offered to the family. The case was closed on October 2, 2023.