

Statement on the death of a one-year-old girl, Jody Jackson

Date Issued: April 18, 2024

On January 29, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 1-year-old Jody Jackson, who was found unresponsive by her mother, Natalie Tate. The mother contacted emergency services who responded to the home and pronounced Jody deceased. It was reported that the mother was aware the child had ingested fentanyl and delayed seeking medical care for the child. The child's post mortem toxicology results returned positive for fentanyl.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other child in the home was removed and placed in licensed foster care.

On February 6, 2024, the mother, Natalie Tate, was indicted on child abuse charges.

The Department is providing services to the sibling and will continue to assess for additional services to be provided to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Tate:

On March 1, 2010, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their mother, Ms. Tate. The report alleged that the child had a scratch and that their mother had pushed them. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation of physical abuse. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed.

On August 29, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Ms. Tate. The report alleged that Ms. Tate was seen nodding off and unable to provide necessary care to her child. The investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation of neglect. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on December 11, 2020.

On June 8, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect to Jody by her mother, Ms. Tate. The report alleged that Ms. Tate used Percocet regularly during her pregnancy and had used other substances prior to learning of her pregnancy, resulting in the child being born substance exposed. The allegations were substantiated. The investigation assessed Jody and a sibling as safe with their mother with a safety plan in place. The family was referred for services but did not engage in the services. The case was closed on May 17, 2023.