

## **Statement on the fatality of a two-year-old boy, Kayden Lewis**

**Date Issued: April 3, 2023**

On January 12, 2022, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the death of 2-year-old, Kayden Lewis. The child was in the care of his parents when he was shot with a handgun.

Following an assessment of child safety, the siblings were removed from the home and placed with relatives.

On January 18, 2022, the Department of Child Safety filed a dependency petition with the Maricopa Superior Court for Kayden's siblings. The Court found the mother, Amanda Bailey, failed "to provide a safe and stable home environment and proper supervision" on April 12, 2022.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Bailey:

On September 4, 2014, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a sibling by Ms. Bailey. There were reported concerns Ms. Bailey tested positive for marijuana while pregnant. It was determined that mother stopped using marijuana several months before giving birth. This report was still open when the next one came in.

On March 9, 2015, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a sibling by Ms. Bailey and another adult. There were concerns that the adults had gotten into a physical fight in the presence of the child; however, the allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was offered in-home services at the conclusion of the investigation but the family declined to participate. The Department gave the family a list of community resources.

On September 9, 2018, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a sibling by Ms. Bailey. There were reported concerns that Ms. Bailey gave birth to a substance exposed newborn and that she had a suicide attempt recently. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated.

On February 3, 2021, the Department received a report alleging physical abuse and neglect to Kayden and a sibling by Ms. Bailey and another adult. The report alleged that both of the children were in the other adult's arms when the mother began to hit the other adult. After several attempts to locate the family and complete the investigation, the Department closed the case as unable to locate. It was believed that the father had left the state with some of the children.

On August 14, 2021, the Department received a report alleging neglect to a sibling by Ms. Bailey. It stated that the mother had been arrested due to assaulting another adult in the presence of the child. During the investigation, it was determined that the

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mother had left the state; therefore, an investigation could not be completed. The case was closed and the allegations were unsubstantiated.

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