Statement on the death of 1-year-old Zeevah Montoya

Date Issued: September 9, 2025

On February 13, 2025, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report that 1-year-old Zeevah Montoya was shot and killed in her home approximately one week prior to the report.

At the time of the fatality report, there were no other children residing in the home.

On February 11, 2025, the child's father, Adam Montoya, was indicted by a Navajo County Grand Jury on charges of second-degree murder and child abuse in relation to Zeevah's death.

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

DCS received the following prior report involving Mr. Montoya:

On July 30, 2019, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Montoya. The report alleged that there was domestic violence occurring around the child in addition to concerns of possible substance use by the parents. Following an investigation, DCS found that the child's needs were being met by a family member and the parents were not consistently involved in the child's care. The child was assessed as safe with a family member, who had obtained emergency custody of the child in family court. The allegations of neglect were unsubstantiated. The family was provided with information on services available in the community and the case was closed.

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