ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

Kathryn Ptak, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Statement on the death of 8-year-old Andres Ortega

Date Issued: 09/23/25

On March 4, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 8-year-old Andres Ortega, who was taken to the hospital after being involved in a motor vehicle accident. The child was unrestrained in the vehicle being driven by his father, Steven Ortega. Andres was pronounced deceased at the hospital on March 13, 2024.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were assessed as safe in the care of their parents.

The Department provided the family with information on services available in the community.

On August 20, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Andres by his father, Mr. Ortega.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Ortega:

On February 7, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their stepfather, Mr. Ortega. The report alleged that the child had a bruise and a cut on his nose that the child said were caused by Mr. Ortega. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

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