Amendments to the information originally posted on 08/26/2025 are displayed below in red.

Statement on the death of 1-year-old Austin Lahay

Date Issued: January 14, 2026

On November 1, 2023, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 1-year-old Austin Lahay, who was brought to the hospital after being found unresponsive in his home. Upon examination, multiple injuries were discovered indicating non-accidental trauma. The child ultimately died due to his injuries. The medical examiner determined the child suffered from blunt force injuries causing his death.

There were no other children in the home.

On June 16, 2025, Cassey Hay pleaded guilty to one count of child abuse- domestic violence in relation to the fatality of her son. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail and 12 years of standard probation following her release. On December 18, 2025, the Department substantiated the allegation of physical abuse to Austin by his mother, Cassey Hay, and significant other, Nathaniel Gettler.

There were no services provided by the Department.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Hay and Mr. Gettler:

On May 24, 2020, the Department received a report alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother, Ms. Hay. The report alleged the child's parents were abusing substances and failing to address the child's medical needs. The DCS investigation resulted in the child being removed from the home and placed with a relative. A dependency petition was filed with Pinal County Superior Court and the allegations were substantiated. The parents failed to remedy the circumstances that brought the child into care. Parental rights were severed and the child was adopted. The case closed on September 27, 2022.

On April 12, 2023, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Ms. Hay. The report alleged Ms. Hay was using substances around the child and not being able to properly care for Austin. The DCS investigation did not find evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated, and the case was closed on June 16, 2023.

On October 18, 2023, the Department received a report alleging neglect to Austin Lahay by his mother, Ms. Hay. The report alleged concerns about the condition of the home and Austin being confined to his play pen for several hours. The Department was making efforts to locate the family when the near fatality report was received on November 1, 2023.

On November 15, 2021, the Department received a report alleging neglect of children by significant other, Mr. Gettler, and other adults. The report alleged incidents of domestic violence between Mr. Gettler and other adult

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and concerns of the condition of the home. The Department made attempts to locate the family. The family could not be located and the case was closed on December 28, 2021.

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