Statement on the death of 2-year-old Mariah Savard

Date Issued: September 9, 2025

On August 9, 2023, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 2-year-old, Mariah Savard. On August 8, 2023, Mariah was found submerged in the pool after being left unsupervised while in her father's care and was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

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

The Department offered services to the family, which the family declined.

On April 8, 2025, the father, Lance Savard, was indicted by a Yuma County Grand Jury on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, and child abuse in relation to Mariah's death.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Mr. Savard:

On February 13, 2008, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Savard. The report alleged their mother was homeless and their father, Mr. Savard, allowed the mother to take the child with her onto the streets. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from the parents' custody and a dependency petition was filed with the juvenile court. The parents were provided with reunification services, and the child was returned to Mr. Savard's custody in December 2009. The allegations were substantiated, and the case was closed.

On December 9, 2009, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Savard. The report also included allegations of physical abuse to the child by their mother. The report alleged that the parents have parties where the children are exposed to alcohol, marijuana use, and paraphernalia. The report also alleged the mother is aggressive with the child. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

On October 19, 2014, a report was received alleging physical abuse to a child by their father, Mr. Savard. The report alleged that the child returned from a visit with Mr. Savard and had a burn around the edge of their mouth. The injury was noted to appear as if the child was burned by hot food or a cup. The DCS and police investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

On February 22, 2022, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Savard. The report alleged that the child uses marijuana when they are at their mother's home and the father is aware and allows the child to continue to visit with the mother. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegations. The child admitted to marijuana use but denied that either parent provided or supported their use of the substance. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed.

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