Statement on the death of 1-month-old Nia Martin

Date Issued: February 11, 2026

On May 31, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 1-month-old, Nia Martin, who was pronounced deceased after co-sleeping with a sibling.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were initially assessed as safe in the home. The family was referred for services, but the siblings were later removed from the home and placed into DCS custody with an unlicensed caregiver until they reunified with their parents in March 2025.

On January 26, 2026, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Nia Martin by her mother, Keara Lee.

The Department provided services to the family.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Lee:

On November 3, 2022, the Department received a report alleging neglect of a child by Ms. Lee. The report alleged Ms. Lee used marijuana while pregnant. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the family was provided with information on services in the community. The case was closed on January 10, 2023.

On April 5, 2024, the Department received a report alleging neglect of a Nia by Ms. Lee. The report alleged Ms. Lee used marijuana while pregnant with Nia. The DCS investigation did not result in evidence to support the allegation. The allegation was unsubstantiated. The case was still open when the fatality report was received.

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