ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY

Kathryn Ptak, Director
Katie Hobbs, Governor

Statement on the death of 1-month-old Alijandra Celaya

Date Issued: February 11, 2026

On August 9, 2024, the Arizona Department of Child Safety received a report regarding the fatality of 1-month-old Alijandra Celaya, who was found unresponsive after co-sleeping in an adult bed with her parents, who were under the influence of alcohol. Alijandra was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced deceased.

Following an assessment of child safety, the other children in the home were determined to be safe.

On January 26, 2026, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect to Alijandra by her parents, Arianna Garza and Frank Celaya.

The Department provided services to the family and provided the family with information about additional services available in the community.

There were no prior DCS reports involving Mr. Celaya.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Ms. Garza:

On November 26, 2014, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Ms. Garza. The report alleged that Ms. Garza has not been providing regular care or medical attention for the child. The report was still open when another report was received. This allegation of neglect was later unsubstantiated.

On April 16, 2015, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their father and their mother, Ms. Garza. The report was received due to the filing of a private dependency petition in the Superior Court. The dependency petition alleged that the parents are unable to parent due to substance abuse and concerns of domestic violence. The Department was added as a party to the court case and provided services to the family. The allegations of neglect to the child by Ms. Garza were substantiated. Ms. Garza's parental rights were terminated in May 2016, and the case was closed.

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