

Statement on the death of 4-year-old Tammy Hernandez

Date Issued: May 13, 2026

On March 16, 2024, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding 4-year-old Tammy Hernandez, who reportedly drowned in the bathtub and died at home.

There were no other children in the home.

The medical examiner determined the child suffered possible drowning, blunt force injuries, and a severe stomach ulcer as contributing conditions to her death. Tammy's father, Nathan Peru, was indicted on charges of child abuse and sexual abuse. Mr. Peru died while awaiting trial.

The Department determined Tammy Hernandez died as a result of physical abuse and neglect while in the care of her father, Mr. Peru.

There were no services provided by the Department following the fatality incident.

DCS received the following prior reports involving Tammy Hernandez, her mother, and her father, Mr. Peru:

On August 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother, and her sibling's father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for substance use and lack of supervision. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when another report was received.

On September 8, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect and physical abuse to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother, and her sibling's father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for substance use and domestic violence impacting the children's safety. An investigation was initiated and efforts were made to locate the family without success. The Department was continuing efforts to locate the family when another report was received.

On October 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to Tammy Hernandez and a sibling by their mother, and her sibling's father. The report also alleged neglect to Tammy by her father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for substance use and domestic violence. Upon locating the family, an assessment of child safety was completed for all three reports. As a result, Tammy and the sibling were removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster care. The allegations of neglect to Tammy and the sibling by all adults for the three open reports were substantiated. The allegation of physical abuse in the September 8, 2020, report was unsubstantiated. Services were provided to the family. Tammy was returned home with her father, Mr. Peru, in November 2023, and the dependency was dismissed.

DCS received the following reports involving the father, Mr. Peru:

On March 29, 2012, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for domestic violence and a lack of medical care for the children. Following an assessment of child safety the children were removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster care. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services. Mr. Peru's parental rights were terminated in 2014.

On August 30, 2013, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for substance use, domestic violence, and the parents' lack of stable housing and resources to care for the child. Following an assessment of child safety the child was removed from their parents' custody and placed with a relative. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services. Mr. Peru's parental rights were terminated in 2014.

On August 14, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concern for both parents' substance use. The Department implemented a safety plan to ensure child safety during an investigation. While this report was being investigated, another report was received. The allegations were later substantiated.

On August 30, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for a domestic violence situation that occurred between the parents with the child present. This incident of domestic violence went against the agreements made by the family in the safety plan. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from their parents' care. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services and the child was returned to their mother's home in 2022.

On June 9, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for continued substance use and domestic violence between the parents. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was removed from their parents' care and added to an existing dependency case. The allegations were substantiated. The family was provided reunification services and the child was returned to their mother's home in 2022.

On September 24, 2021, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother and their father, Mr. Peru. The report alleged concerns for a domestic violence situation that occurred between the parents with the child present. After investigation, the child was assessed as safe to remain in their mother's care with a protection order in place as to Mr. Peru. The Department continued to provide services to the family through the open dependency case. The allegations were unsubstantiated.