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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Providence, R.I. (June 23, 2023) — The Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) is disclosing the near fatality of a 14-year-old youth. The Department had prior involvement with the family but was not open to the family at the time of the incident.

While this incident occurred on February 15, 2023, the Department confirmed in April 2023 that this case was the subject of a child maltreatment finding and met the criteria of a near fatality. Due to an internal oversight, this case did not result in a public disclosure at the time. The Department has taken steps to ensure for timely disclosure going forward in cases of child near fatalities and fatalities. DCYF has notified the Office of the Child Advocate of this report.

Due to confidentiality laws, DCYF is prohibited from sharing additional information.

DCYF's highest priority is the safety and well-being of all children. Rhode Islanders are required by law to report known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to DCYF within 24 hours of becoming aware of such abuse/neglect. Please call 1-800-RI-CHILD to report known or suspected cases of child abuse.

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