



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (February 12, 2026) – Pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 42-72-8(c), the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) is disclosing the fatality of an 18-year-old youth.

The incident occurred on February 11, 2026, and DCYF has notified the Office of the Child Advocate. The 18-year-old youth was involved with DCYF at the time of the incident.

While confidentiality laws prohibit DCYF from disclosing additional details, we are always disheartened to learn of these incidents. We encourage any family needing support to reach out to our Family Support Line for information on resources and support at 1-888-RI-FAMILY (1-888-743-2659).

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 (1-800-742-4453) to report known or suspected cases of child abuse.

## **CONTACT**

Barbara Francella

Public Information Officer

[barbara.francella@dcyf.ri.gov](mailto:barbara.francella@dcyf.ri.gov)