



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (March 18, 2026) — Pursuant to CAPTA amendment 42 U.S.C. § 5106(b)(2)(B)(x), the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) is disclosing the near fatality of a 2-month-old infant. The DCYF investigation into this incident has concluded and determined this near fatality resulted from maltreatment. The infant was not involved with the Department at the time of this incident, which occurred on January 4, 2026.

Also, pursuant to Rhode Island General Law § 42-72-8(c), DCYF is disclosing the near fatality of a 16-year-old youth. The incident occurred on March 16, 2026. The youth was involved with DCYF at the time of the incident.

The Office of the Child Advocate has been notified of both incidents.

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