

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

Report Release Date: April 8, 2015

**Review of the Death of Brookelynn Sawyer
of Comanche County, Oklahoma**

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received an inquiry regarding the death of Brookelynn Sawyer. A Felony Second Degree Manslaughter charge was filed in Comanche County District Court on January 14, 2015 against Kayla and Alexander Sawyer, the child's biological parents.

Authorization

The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS); the dates and outcome of investigations and actions taken by the OKDHS; the actions taken by the district attorney; the dates and summary of judicial proceedings; and the rulings of the court, as authorized by 10A O.S. Section 1-6-105.

Identifiers:

Child's Name:	Brookelynn Sawyer
Date of Birth:	August 7, 2014
Date of Death:	September 19, 2014
Persons Responsible for the Child:	Kayla Sawyer Alexander Sawyer

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) was unaware of Brookelynn Sawyer before her death.

Criminal Charges

The Oklahoma State Courts Network system documented that charges were filed against Kayla and Alexander Sawyer as Criminal Felony proceedings. The charge of Second Degree Manslaughter was filed by the Comanche County District Attorney's Office. The charges on both parents are currently pending.

Death Incident

The death report was received by the Comanche County OKDHS on September 22, 2014. Reportedly, the parents, Kayla and Alexander Sawyer, woke up and found their one-month-old infant, Brookelynn Sawyer, not breathing. It was reported that the infant was found between the bed and the night stand. It was reported that no one was arrested at that time.

The OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority I Investigation. The OKDHS initiated contact with the family on September 22, 2014. The persons interviewed during the investigation included Kayla and Alexander Sawyer, the two surviving siblings, relatives, law enforcement, and medical professionals.

Both parents stated they had been co-sleeping with all three children in the bed with them. The two surviving siblings were observed to be free of any marks or bruises that would have been consistent of abuse. There were no signs of neglect noted as well. The Medical Examiner noted there were no signs of trauma. The Medical Examiner's report stated that "Based upon the improper bedding, the cause of death remains UNKNOWN with the possibility of ASPHYXIA." The report also stated the manner of death was likewise unknown.

The OKDHS made a finding of Unsubstantiated as to the allegations of Threat of Harm and Neglect/Death by the mother and father.

Prior Involvement with the Department of Human Services

There was no prior child welfare involvement that was pertinent to the child's death.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death

The OJSO identified no judicial proceedings prior to the death incident.