

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

Report Release Date: April 7, 2014

Review of the Near-Death of D.W.

of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

General Information

On June 23, 2011, the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received an inquiry regarding the near-death of three-year-old D.W. A felony Child Neglect charge was filed in Oklahoma County District Court on July 12, 2011, against Leana Lee Lauck the child's mother.

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 DHS; 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:	D. W.
Age at time of Incident:	Three-years-old
Date of Near-Death:	June 19, 2011
Person Responsible for the Child:	Leana Lee Lauck, biological mother
Sibling 1:	Five-years-old

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this case until after the near-death incident involving D.W.

Criminal Charges

Leana Lee Lauck was charged with Child Neglect, and Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute/Methamphetamine/Schedule II.

Near -Death Incident

The Oklahoma County OKDHS received a report on June 19, 2011, which alleged that a three-year-old child, D.W., had been physically abused. The report stated that the child was treated at an emergency room on the morning of June 19, 2011, with extensive bruising on the face and back.

According to the report, the mother, Leana Lauck, left D.W. with a friend on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. When the friend dropped the child off with Leana Lauck that morning, June 19, 2011, the child had injuries. The injuries were allegedly chemical burns from household cleaning products. The friend told the mother that D.W. had pulled bleach, Pine-Sol, and other household cleaners on top of the child's head, which caused chemical burns.

The OKDHS report documented that D.W. did not have chemical burns but was bruised from being beaten. The bruising was so severe on the child's face that D.W.'s eyes were swollen shut and there was extensive bruising on the child's ears and spine.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation. Those documented as having been interviewed included Leana Lauck, six medical professionals, one hospital social worker, one law enforcement official, three relatives, three friends, two Child Welfare staff, one sibling, and visual observation of D.W.

The mother, Leana Lauck, reported that she did not immediately seek medical attention for D.W. but instead left the child in the motel room bed while she monitored his condition. She reported that she left D.W. without medical care for as long as she could until the child's breathing became labored.

Sibling one was present in the motel room while D.W. was being monitored by their mother, Leana Lauck. The sibling later believed that D.W. was deceased.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated with Court Intervention Recommended. The OKDHS also recommended that the petition be filed as Heinous and Shocking due to the severity of the injuries suffered by the child and the mother's lack of response to the child's need for medical attention.

Prior Involvement with the Department of Human Services

This family was previously involved with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. This information is included as it indicates a pattern of neglect. The following prior reports are pertinent to the near-death incident because they involve allegations of neglect. The first report, received on November 8, 2009, alleged inadequate housing, inadequate nutrition, inadequate physical care and physical abuse. The report documented that D.W. sustained burns on the child's genitals and abdomen during a bath. The report documented that the child received no medical care and that the family

cared for the child's burns. The OKDHS accepted the report as an Assessment but eventually closed the report as Unable to Locate.

The second report, received March 20, 2010, in regard to the family was that a three-year-old and one-year-old had been left in a motel room alone and the one-year-old child was trying to cross a busy street alone. When the mother was located she stated she thought that a friend of hers had the children with them. The OKDHS documented this was a one-time occurrence and when the family moved to another state, the report was Screened Out.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near-death

This family has no history of judicial proceedings in regard to child abuse or neglect prior to the near-death incident.