

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

Report Release Date: April 25, 2016

**Review of the Death of Genshawn Cooper
of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma**

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of Genshawn Cooper. A charge of Child Abuse was filed in Oklahoma County District Court on July 22, 2015, against Kendell Adair the girlfriend of the child's father and a Person Responsible for the Child (PRFC).

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:	Genshawn Cooper
Date of Birth:	August 17, 2012
Date of Death:	September 3, 2014
PRFC:	Kendell Adair
Siblings	
Step Sibling 1	Ten years old
Step Sibling 2	Nine years old
Sibling 3	Three years old
Sibling 4	One year old.

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this case until after the death of Genshawn Cooper.

Death Incident: On September 3, 2014, the OKDHS documented that a relative went to awaken Genshawn and his younger sibling who were sleeping together on an air mattress at approximately 9:00 a.m. It was reported that Genshawn had been ill the previous evening and was throwing up during the night. The relative stated that Genshawn was laying on his face when they walked into the room. The relative reported the child was cold to the touch but the relative began CPR anyway. They then noticed that the child had begun to stiffen up and they knew Genshawn was deceased and called 911. According to OKDHS records, Kendell Adair reported to OCPD that she put the child to bed the night before around 8:00 p.m. She reported that at 10:00 p.m. the child had thrown up in bed. Kendell Adair stated that she got up and cleaned up the vomit and that he also had on a dirty diaper. She reported that she changed his diaper and gave him some pedialite because he had been running a fever earlier in the day. She then reported that the child fell and hit his head on the tile floor. She reported that she kept

the child up long enough to make sure he was all right then put him back to bed at approximately 10:45 p.m. Medical records documented that Genshawn was found to have non accidental head trauma. OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority 1 investigation. The siblings were placed into protective custody. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC that is pertinent to the child's death

There were prior reports of involvement with the OKDHS of which three have been deemed pertinent to this report.

Kendell Adair's first involvement with the Department of Human Services was on September 9, 2005. The Oklahoma County OKDHS received information that the mother, Kendell Adair, who was eight months pregnant, and her eleven-month-old child had been living in a motel room after they were evicted and were involved in a domestic violence incident. The report was accepted as a Priority II Investigation with five days in which to initiate contact with the alleged child victim. The OKDHS documented an attempt on September 14, and 15, 2005 to contact the child but were unsuccessful both times. The next attempt to contact the child was on October 21, 2005. The OKDHS documented having called a utility company on November 10, 2005, and again on November 14, 2005, but were told there was no account information for Kendell Adair. The OKDHS documented they would close the investigation with no finding as an Unable to Locate.

The next involvement with the OKDHS was a report received on May 21, 2014 by Oklahoma County OKDHS. The report alleged two months earlier, that Kendell Adair had been seen punching Step Sibling 1 in the back. The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Investigation with three days in which to initiate contact with the child victim. The OKDHS documented that the child had been diagnosed with developmental delays. The OKDHS documented that when the child was asked if they felt safe at home the child responded yes. The mother denied all the allegations. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Ruled Out.

The next involvement with OKDHS was an allegation received on August 12, 2014, that Kendell Adair had punched Step Sibling 1 in the chest. The OKDHS interviewed the child on August 13, 2014, and the child reported getting spanked with a belt and being punched in the chest.

The OKDHS documented that it did not appear there were any safety threats in the home but after the information in the report received on September 3, 2014, in regard to the death of Genshawn Cooper they Substantiated. This report was closed October 11, 2014.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death

There was no pertinent Judicial Proceedings prior to the death of Genshawn Cooper.