

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

Report Release Date: April 28, 2016

**Review of the Near-Death of L.G.
of Muskogee County, Oklahoma**

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the near-death of L.G.. Charges of Child Abuse by Injury (Felony) and Child Neglect (Felony) were filed in Muskogee County District Court on January 12, 2016, against Rachel Stevens and Kayla Jones, Persons 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:	L.G.
Age at time of Incident:	Five-years-old
Date of Near Death:	December 8, 2015
PRFCs:	Rachel Stevens Kayla Jones
Siblings:	Sibling 1 age seven-years-old Sibling 2 age five-years-old

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

Near Death Incident:

The OKDHS received a report that L.G. had been taken to a medical facility due to alleged physical abuse. It was reported that the child had bruises, scabs, abrasions, and bleeding from head to foot. According to the persons responsible for the child (PRFC) the injuries were from the child jumping off the furniture and L.G. picking the scabs until they bled. The child appeared to be emaciated and looked as if L.G. had been beaten. L.G. was admitted with a fever of 103 and was placed in ICU. L.G. required a blood transfusion due to loss of blood or internal bleeding. The PRFC's Rachel Stevens and Kayla Jones were reported to have gotten defensive and stated this was not child

abuse. They stated that the injuries were self-inflicted and that they slept in shifts to monitor L.G.'s behaviors.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation. It was documented L.G. had a subdermal hematoma, bilateral retinal bleeding, was anemic, had impetigo, various fractures at different states of healing, which included the scapula, clavicle, and ribs along with bruising, abrasions and scabs, double eye infections, two strokes due to the head trauma; blood clots, cellulitis, and L.G. suffered from malnutrition with a temperature between 103 and 104 degrees. L.G. reported severe headaches, and was very irritable as one of the strokes had affected the frontal lobe of the brain, which controlled mood and personality.

The PRFC's reported that L.G. had a seizure on Friday and they made a doctor's appointment because the child had swelling in their finger and foot after the seizure. Kayla Jones stated she found the child in the child's room and that L.G. was not alert so she put L.G. on L.G.'s side and that she administered CPR. She further stated that L.G. fell again on Saturday on the television cabinet and then slipped in the bathroom. Medical staff stated that L.G.'s injuries were due to neglect and physical abuse.

During a forensic interview L.G. disclosed that Rachel and Kayla had hit L.G. in the head, arm and hand with a belt and that Rachel hit L.G. in the ear. L.G. reported being tied up with a rope around the hands and feet and that in the morning's Rachel would untie the ropes. L.G. reported that Sibling 2 was also in the bed when L.G. was tied up but Sibling 1 was at a different parent's house. L.G. stated that the Siblings were the good children but L.G. was the bad child. Sibling 1 told another relative that Kayla hits L.G. and that Rachel just watched and also said that Kayla sits on L.G. and the child can't breathe. Sibling 2 reported to another relative that L.G. and Sibling 2 are tied together in bed at night. All three children verbalized to OKDHS that they did not want to return to the home of Rachel and Kayla.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated and requested the Court move for the immediate termination of parental rights due to Shocking and Heinous abuse and neglect.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

The family did have prior involvement with the OKDHS and one report was pertinent to the near death of L.G. That report was received on February 17, 2014 by the Muskogee County OKDHS. The report alleged that L.G. had a three inch red mark on the thigh which had purple bruising under the mark. L.G. reported that Kayla did this with a belt. The OKDHS documented that L.G. disclosed being spanked for getting into nail polish. The OKDHS worker documented having observed a faint line mark with a greenish yellow bruise the size of a quarter on the child's thigh area. The OKDHS documented that the parents were going through a custody issue in regard to L.G. and Sibling 2 and that custody had not yet been determined in civil court. Rachel and Kayla denied that they spanked with a belt but used their hand on the butt or placed L.G. in time out.

Kayla reported that all three children got in trouble because Sibling 1 was swinging a belt around and hit L.G. on Sunday before L.G. went to the other parent's house. They reported that all three children were placed in time out. The OKDHS documented that the children did not appear to be fearful of any of the adults in their life. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Ruled Out.

Relevant Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near death

There were no prior relevant judicial proceedings in regard to these children.