

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

Report Release Date: February 11, 2016

**Review of the Death of Camaron Larson
of Tulsa County, Oklahoma**

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of Camaron Larson. Two charges each of Child Neglect were filed in Tulsa County District Court on December 16, 2014, against Sarah McKay and Robert McKay, both 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:	Camaron Larson
Age at time of Incident:	Eleven years old
Date of Death:	November 24, 2014
Persons Responsible For the Child:	Sarah and Robert McKay
Sibling 1	Twelve years old

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

Near Death Incident

The OKDHS was notified that a child with disabilities and medical issues had been left unattended for several hours and when the step father, Robert McKay went to check on the child he was unresponsive. It was alleged that the parents, Sarah and Robert McKay had left the home to go get food and that their two adult roommates were in the home at the time. The roommates later reported that they did not check on Camaron while his parents were gone. It was alleged that the home did not have electricity and

that there was dog urine and feces on the floors. Sibling 1 was reported to have been at the home of other relatives.

The OKDHS documented an overall finding of Substantiated with Court Intervention Recommended as to Neglect Death, Neglect Threat of Harm, and Inadequate or Dangerous Shelter.

The OKDHS documented that the home was dirty with little room to walk, dog feces on the floor, and no electricity. The family had turned on all four gas burners to supply heat to the home despite the safety risks. Sibling 1 reported that they had been pulled out of school for the past month to care for Camaron. Sibling 1 was extremely knowledgeable of Camaron's care and appeared to have been providing the most care for Camaron through the days.

During the investigation, the four adults in the home gave varying stories in regard to the events of the day Camaron died. According to one story reported to OKDHS, the family never ran the generator for Camaron's medical supplies although the child had medical issues which required the need for electrical medical equipment to be kept running throughout the day and night. The OKDHS also documented that many of Camaron's prescription medications were found to be full, seeming to have been given incorrectly or infrequently. Camaron's medical records indicated the parents were infrequent in getting Camaron to his needed specialist appointments.

The Medical Examiner's report listed the Cause of Death as complications of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease and Leukoencephalopathy and noted the Manner of Death was Natural. The Medical Examiner also documented that additional significant postmortem findings included an acute bronchopneumonia, ketouria (acetone in the urine), and a dehydration pattern. It was also documented that a lesion was noted on the right distal femur and that microscopic sections of the lesion showed mechanical disruption of the normal bone/bone marrow architecture.

The OKDHS documented that the first responders to the home reported that Camaron was a special needs child and was living in a house that was cold and dark without proper utilities. They reported that the only light in the home were their flashlights and that the home was not suitable for a special needs child. Their report documented that Camaron was pronounced deceased at 1729 hours and that he was cold with signs of rigor mortis and lividity.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

The family had previous reports of neglect as to Camaron, of which eleven were pertinent to the child death incident.

On November 4, 2003, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report alleging inadequate nutrition of Camaron. The OKDHS investigated and made an overall finding of Services Recommended with the recommendation of that the mother continue with Sooner Start services.

On May 29, 2004, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that a fifteen month old handicapped child was brought to the emergency room due to difficulty with his feeding tube. The report alleged that the mother left with the child before he received any treatment.

The OKDHS documented that the mother provided documentation that she had taken the child to another medical facility and had the mickey button reinserted there. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Not Needed.

On September 23, 2004, the Mayes County OKDHS received a report that the mother Sarah McKay was not following through with medical recommendations. The child was prescribed medication three times a day to prevent him from self-mutilating. The mother allegedly could not wake up for the 8 am dosage.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Recommended and the mother signed a voluntary service agreement to allow access to Sooner Start providers, agreed to find a local pediatrician and provide a recent physical exam for Camaron.

On February 14, 2005, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that Camaron had a respiratory infection and a three inch diameter pressure sore on his back. Camaron was hospitalized on February 18, 2005 for IV antibiotics to treat the pressure sore.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Recommended and documented that the mother refused services because she had Sooner Start Services.

On April 15, 2005, the Creek County OKDHS received a report that two-year-old Camaron was brought into the emergency room for a chemical irritation to his face. The report documented that the mother said that three-year-old Sibling 1 had crawled into the crib and sprayed the child in the face with Clorox Spray Cleaner.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Recommended and documented that Services were in place.

On May 27, 2005, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that there were three or four children in an apartment who all appeared to be under the age of three who were running around the apartment complex all the times, even at 1:00 am unsupervised. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Not Needed and documented that Sooner Start provided physical therapy for Camaron, and that there were in home providers who help with the care of the children.

On February 21, 2006, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that Camaron was transported to the Emergency Room by ambulance. Camaron was alleged to be unresponsive. The OKDHS screened out the report as Not Child Abuse/Neglect and documented that the on call worker went to the hospital and reported back that the child's death was expected due to his medical condition and that there was no indication of abuse.

On May 21, 2008 the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that Camaron's health had declined as well as his behavior, hygiene and physical appearance. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Services Recommended as medical professionals stated there was no neglect. The recommendations to the mother were that she continue to provide the child with needed in-home therapy and medical attention.

On December 1, 2012, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that nine-year-old Camaron and Sibling 1 were in a home where both parents were allegedly using illegal drugs. The report alleged that Camaron was left in his bed for two or three days at a time. He urinated and defecated all over himself and the bed.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Unsubstantiated and recommended that the mother continue to be consistent in the medical services of Camaron.

On November 20, 2013, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that alleged when the stepfather Robert McKay brought Camaron to the emergency room for respiratory distress and altered mental condition it was observed that Camaron was layered with dirt on his skin and dirt under his fingernails. Allegedly the stepfather explained that for the past seven days, the child had been staying with a relative who was smoking and had not given Camaron his breathing treatments.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Unsubstantiated as Sarah stated she told the relative that she could not smoke around Camaron because he had asthma and that when she realized he was having difficulty breathing because of the relative's smoking she made sure he went to the emergency room.

On September 12, 2014, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that the family had moved into the home of the relative who was a smoker, but planned to move out by October 1, 2014. It was further alleged that Camaron's physical needs were not being met. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Unsubstantiated. The OKDHS documented the mother was attending medical appointments with the child.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near death

There were no prior pertinent Juvenile Judicial proceedings in regard to this family before Camaron's death.