

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

Report Release Date: April 8, 2015

Review of the Near Death of J.P.

Of Tulsa County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the near death of eleven-year-old J.P. The boyfriend of J.P.'s biological mother, Steven Lewis Clement, was charged on September 22, 2014, with one count of Murder – First Degree in Commission of the Felony Crime of Arson – First Degree, and one count of Endangering Human Life During Arson. A sibling to this child died in the fire allegedly started by Mr. Clement, and the OJSO submitted a separate public report about his death.

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: J.P.

Age at time of incident:	Eleven-years-old
Alleged perpetrator:	Steven Lewis Clement, Person
Responsible for the Child (PRFC)	
Sibling One:	Five-years-old
Sibling Two:	Seven-years-old

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

Criminal Charges

The Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) system documented that charges were filed against Steven Lewis Clement on September 22, 2014, as Criminal Felony proceedings. The charges of Murder, First Degree, in Commission of the Felony Crime of Arson, First Degree, and Endangering Human Life During Arson were filed by the Tulsa County District Attorney's office. The OSCN documented that Mr. Clement was ordered detained without bond on September 23, 2014.

Death Incident

The OKDHS received a report that J.P. was found unresponsive when firefighters responded to a fire at the family home on September 16, 2014. According to the documentation, Mr. Clement was responsible for the welfare of J.P., Sibling One and Sibling Two at the time the fire occurred. Documentation further stated that the biological mother was not present when the fire allegedly occurred. The report indicated that the biological mother had received threatening texts from Mr. Clement,

including a text in which Mr. Clement threatened to burn down the home. At the time of the report, J.P. was admitted to a medical facility, still unresponsive with smoke inhalation with loss of consciousness and hypokalemia.

The OKDHS accepted this as a Priority I Investigation. During the course of the OKDHS investigation, Mr. Clement reportedly stated that the house fire started when mattresses in the home were ignited by a lighter. The alleged incident occurred because Mr. Clement was upset with the biological mother because she had gone with a family friend to Kansas to retrieve a car. When he heard a gasoline can in the garage explode, he went into the home and woke J.P., Sibling Two, and an adult sibling, who were able to walk out of the home. Mr. Clement reportedly called 911 and attempted to rescue Sibling One, but was unable to retrieve him. According to the documentation, J.P. quickly recovered from the injuries. The OKDHS Investigation was closed with a finding of Substantiated as to allegations of Abuse/Near Death by Mr. Clement as to J.P., Abuse/Death by Mr. Clement as to Sibling One, and Abuse/Threat of Harm by Mr. Clement as to Sibling Two.

The OKDHS documented that J.P. and Sibling Two were sent to another state to live with relatives after the fire incident.