

OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT

Report Release Date: March 9, 2017

Review of the Near-Death of M.C.

Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile Systems Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the near death of M.C. A felony count of Child Abuse was filed in Oklahoma County District Court on November 7, 2016, against the child’s father, Brennan Conyer, and bond was set at \$10,000.

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 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:	M.C.
Age at time of incident:	Three months old
Date of near death:	October 25, 2016
Sibling One:	Three years old
Person Responsible for the Child (PRFC):	Brennan Conyer

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not become aware of this family until the near-death incident involving M.C.

Near Death Incident

On October 25, 2016, the OKDHS received a report that M.C. was admitted to a medical facility in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, from another medical facility. According to the report, the child was admitted in serious condition with bruising in both ears, a fractured skull, and a subdural hematoma. Medical personnel also noted damage to the child's brain tissue. The reporter indicated that the father reported to medical personnel that he tripped over the child, who was sleeping in a bouncer seat. The seat reportedly fell over and the child fell out, and the father landed on top of the child.

The OKDHS accepted this as a Priority I Investigation. The child was observed by a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker at the medical facility on October 25, 2016. At the time of observation, medical staff requested the child not be moved; the CPS worker documented that the child had a bruise on the chin, bruising on both ears and a swollen head.

The child's mother was interviewed on October 25, 2016, by law enforcement with the CPS worker present. According to the documentation, the child's mother indicated she worked a late shift the previous evening and Mr. Conyer picked her up from work. Reportedly, he brought M.C. with him to retrieve the child's mother, and while returning home, the child vomited. Further, the mother reported that she checked over the child upon returning home and noted the child was lethargic and not seeming normal. According to the documented interview, the mother informed Mr. Conyer that the child needed to be seen by a medical professional immediately and the couple drove the child to a local hospital for treatment.

Mr. Conyer was interviewed on October 25, 2016, by law enforcement with the CPS worker present. Reportedly, Mr. Conyer told law enforcement that M.C. did not sleep well throughout the night and he awoke early in the morning to pick up the child's mother from work. He reportedly reached down to pick up the crying child, but kicked the child's bouncer seat, which caused him to fall forward with the child in his hands. The CPS worker documented that Mr. Conyer reported M.C.'s head hit the corner of a

dresser as the two were falling and then he landed on top of the child. Mr. Conyer reportedly stated that no other adult had cared for the child prior to the incident.

A medical professional, specializing in child abuse cases, reportedly told the CPS worker on October 25, 2016, that M.C. had an acute contusion, subdural hemorrhaging with occipital and bilateral fractures, but the child's prognosis for recovery was good.

Collateral interviews with medical professionals after the child's admission indicated that M.C. was provided an anti-seizure medication to ensure stability. According to the investigation, the child was released from the medical facility within a few days of admission.

The OKDHS made a finding of Substantiated as to the allegation Abuse/Near-Death as to M.C. and Abuse/Threat of Harm as to Sibling One. The OKDHS requested and received emergency custody of both children on October 25, 2016. The Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office filed a juvenile deprived petition on behalf of both children on November 3, 2016. The juvenile deprived petition included a request for termination of the parental rights of Mr. Conyer as to M.C.

Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) records indicated that the mother of both children filed a protective order on behalf of the children against Mr. Conyer on November 15, 2016.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services

There were no prior pertinent reports.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near death incident

The Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) documented no judicial proceedings regarding Mr. Conyer prior to the child's near death incident.