

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

Report Release Date: April 8, 2015

Review of the Near-Death of S.H.

of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received an inquiry regarding the near-death of S.H. A criminal charge of Child Abuse was filed against the foster father, Jeremiah Thompson, in Oklahoma County District Court on January 27, 2015.

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:	S.H.
Age at time of Incident:	Seven Months
Date of Near Death:	November 18, 2014
Alleged Perpetrator:	Jeremiah Thompson

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

Criminal Charges

The On Demand Court Records, (ODCR) / The Oklahoma Supreme Court Network (OSCN) system documented that charges were filed against Jeremiah Thompson as Criminal Felony proceedings. The Charge of Child Abuse was filed by the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office on January 27, 2015.

Near Death Incident:

On November 18, 2014, S.H. was taken to the Emergency Room by ambulance. The foster father, Jerimiah Thompson, told medical staff that S.H. was ill and had been up part of the night. He then stated that he was off work this date and had been up with S.H. part of the night so that his wife, could continue to sleep. The foster father then reported that when he was taking S.H. back to the child's bedroom that he lost control of the child and accidentally dropped the baby onto a carpeted floor. Jeremiah Thompson estimated that the child fell the distance from his chest to the floor. The foster father reported that after the fall, the child appeared to have difficulty getting her focus which was why he called an ambulance.

According to the OKDHS report, after medical examination it was determined that the child suffered a head injury which consisted of an acute frontal subdural hematoma, (brain bleed) which could have been consistent with the foster father's explanation, but the chronic bilateral subdural hematomas, were not consistent with foster father's explanation. According to the OKDHS report, the bilateral brain bleeds appeared to be several days old, and were of an unexplained origin which indicated injuries suspicious of abuse.

The sibling of S.H. was immediately removed from the foster home. The biological children of the foster parents were also removed from the home the same date.

Upon completion of their investigation of the Thompson Foster Home, the OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated as to the allegation of Abuse-Near Death/Head Trauma as to S.H. and Substantiated as to the allegation of Neglect-Threat of Harm as to the sibling by the Person Responsible for the Child (PRFC) Jeremiah Thompson.

Upon completion of their investigation in regard to the biological children of Jeremiah Thompson the OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated as to the allegation of Threat of Harm. The OKDHS also documented a request that the petition be filed as Heinous and Shocking due to the severe nature of the foster child's injuries.

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

The Thompson foster home was opened on September 29, 2014. The first children placed in their home were S.H. and one sibling on October 15, 2014.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near death:

S.H. and one sibling were removed from their biological parents on June 30, 2014. They were adjudicated deprived on August 25, 2014 in Oklahoma County Juvenile Court.