

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

Report Release Date: June 9, 2014

Review of the Death of Quinten Wood

of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

General Information

On May 16, 2013, the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of fifteen-year-old Quinten Wood. Two counts of Felony Child Neglect were filed in Oklahoma County by the District Attorney on March 7, 2014, against Michael David Wood, the child's father.

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:	Quinten Wood
Date of Birth:	May 14, 1997
Date of Death:	January 4, 2013
Person Responsible for the Child:	Michael David Wood, father
Sibling 1:	Younger Sibling

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

Death Incident

The OKDHS was notified of the death of Quinten Wood on January 4, 2013. The referral documented a joint response between law enforcement and the OKDHS. The report documented that Quinten had a chromosome disorder (Ring 9) which resulted in his having the developmental level of an eighteen-month-old toddler and in need of around the clock care. The reporter stated that the child had been sick for about a day and had respiratory problems already. The reporter stated that Quinten and Sibling 1, who was younger than Quinton, were watching television when Sibling 1 noticed that Quinten had stopped breathing. The reporter stated that the father, Michael

David Wood, started CPR and called EMSA. The reporter stated that Quinten was pronounced deceased at a medical facility.

The OKDHS documented that there was an open child abuse/neglect investigation at the time of Quinten's death which had been received on December 17, 2012. The OKDHS documented medical reports, concerns, and opinions of what happened to cause the death of Quinten Wood. Some of the many concerns were weight loss, lack of medical care, and feeding issues. The OKDHS confirmed that Quinten suffered from Ring 9 Chromosome Disorder, a rare birth defect. Quinten had a gastrostomy tube for nutrition and hydration, as one of the risks of Ring 9 Chromosome Disorder was the inability to cough up liquids or foods which would allow orally ingested food or liquid to aspirate and go into the lungs.

The Medical Examiner's report documented that Quinten died of natural causes from pneumonia. A second medical opinion documented that he suffered from malnourishment which contributed to the pneumonia diagnosis. A third medical opinion documented that Quinten should not have been fed by mouth and that the aspirations from the mouth feedings could have caused the pneumonia.

There was also medical documentation noted by the OKDHS that Quinten's estimated weight on March 7, 2011, was seventy pounds. Quinten's last documented visit with his primary care physician was on March 7, 2011. At the time of his death on January 4, 2013, Quinten weighed fifty-four pounds.

The OKDHS documented that Sibling 1 was required by the father, Michael Wood, to provide the around the clock care needed by Quinten which included feeding, bathing, diaper changes and getting Quinten to the school bus. If Quinten was sick or missed the bus, Sibling 1 was required to stay home and care for him. Sibling 1 was also required to do all household chores including cooking and laundry. The OKDHS also documented that the father, Michael Wood, was reported to have stayed in his bedroom on the computer or watched television when he got home from work rather than interact with his children.

On the date of Quinten's death, his father reported to medical personnel that Quinten had been ill for a couple of days. Sibling 1 later disclosed that Quinten had been ill for about a week before he passed away.

The OKDHS documented that findings were Substantiated as to Abuse-Mental Injury as to Sibling 1 by the father, Michael Wood; Neglect-Failure to Provide Adequate Nutrition as to Quinten by Michael Wood; Neglect – Inadequate Physical Care as to Quinten by Michael Wood; Neglect – Inadequate or Dangerous Shelter as to Quinten by Michael Wood; Neglect – Failure to Provide Medical Care as to Quinten by Michael Wood.

Prior Involvement with the Department of Human Services

This previous report to the OKDHS is pertinent as it contains some of the same type of allegations as in the child death report as well as it was an open or active investigation at the time of the child's death.

A report was received by Oklahoma County OKDHS on December 17, 2012, which alleged that Sibling 1 could possibly be reaching a breaking point and act out with violence. The report documented that developmentally disabled fifteen-year-old Quinten required around the clock total care and that his younger Sibling was the primary caregiver for Quinten even when the father was at home. The reporter stated that the father taught Sibling 1 new military techniques of how to fight at school. The reporter stated there was no emotional support for Sibling 1 and that the dad was ex-military and had been stationed in Iraq for several years.

The report documented that Quinten was sick and did not get adequate hygiene care. Quinten wore diapers and needed wipes, bed pads and Ensure. Quinten had a peg tube (Gastronomy Tube) attached to his stomach for proper nutrition. It was reported that Sibling 1 took the best care of Quinten that the child could but the father did not get the needed equipment to care for Quinten and his specific developmental needs. The report also documented there was a dog in the house, dog feces and dirty diapers with urine and fecal matter all over the home. The house was reported to smell bad as Quinten's diapers were not disposed of properly. It was reported that Quinten had not been bathed and there were feces and urine on his mattress.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Investigation with five days in which to initiate contact with the children. The OKDHS documented that Sibling 1 was interviewed at school within the required time frame. The OKDHS documented that when Sibling 1 was interviewed the child reported that too much responsibility had been given to the Sibling by their father. Sibling 1 reported being responsible to feed, change and bathe Quinten. The child also reported being responsible to cook and clean. The OKDHS documented the child reported they needed help.

Sibling 1 reported that the father had thrown the child to the ground, hit the child in the chest, and physically fought with the child. Sibling 1 reported the father was verbally abusive, cussing at them and calling the child an idiot. Sibling 1 reported that the father did not spend time with Quinten. Sibling 1 reported that they sometimes ran out of food at home because their father spent his money on lottery tickets. Sibling 1 reported that they were given boxes of food by friends and family.

The OKDHS worker documented an observation of Quinten at school which stated "he was in a wheel chair, very skinny and wore dirty clothes." The OKDHS documented a failed attempt to interview the father, Michael Wood, on December 19, 2012. No contact with the father was documented by the OKDHS during this investigation.

The OKDHS documented that the allegations of Neglect-Inadequate or Dangerous Shelter, Failure to Provide Adequate Nutrition, Threat of Harm and Abuse-Threat of Harm, and Mental Injury in regard to the children's father, Michael Wood, were Unsubstantiated with Services Recommended. The OKDHS also documented that Sibling 1 was found to be the sole caretaker of fifteen-year-old Quinten. The OKDHS documented Sibling 1 was responsible for feeding, changing, cleaning and caring for Quinten. The OKDHS also documented the father had requested that the school where Quinten attended only change his diaper one time a day rather than the twice daily requirement. The OKDHS documented that Quinten passed away as a result of his disease while this investigation was open and that the allegations of this referral would be further investigated in the report generated by his death. The OKDHS requested closure in regard to this investigation on January 14, 2013. The report was approved for closure on January 18, 2013. Quinten died on January 4, 2013.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death

There were no previous judicial proceedings by the Oklahoma Juvenile Court System in regard to this family.