

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

Report Release Date: April 7, 2014

Review of the Death of Jackson C. Welch

Of Tulsa County, Oklahoma

General Information

On March 11, 2013, the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of Jackson C. Welch. Jackson's father, Cody H. Welch, was charged on March 12, 2013, with Murder in the Second Degree, or, in the alternative, Manslaughter in the First Degree, and Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance.

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:	Jackson C. Welch
Date of Birth:	July 7, 2006
Date of Death:	March 9, 2013
Person Responsible for the Child:	Cody H. Welch, biological father

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

Criminal Charges

The On Demand Court Records (ODCR) system documented that charges were filed against Cody Welch on March 12, 2013, as Criminal Felony proceedings. The charge of Murder in the Second Degree, or, in the alternative, Manslaughter in the First Degree was filed by the Muskogee County District Attorney's office. The ODCR documented that a Warrant of Arrest was issued for Cody Welch on March 12, 2013, and that he was arrested on March 12, 2013. The ODCR also documented that his bail was set for \$200,000.00. Mr. Welch entered a blind plea of guilty to these charges on November 6,

2013. The case was set for sentencing on March 5, 2014, and Mr. Welch was sentenced to fifteen years in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections (DOC) with all but seven years suspended and DOC probation upon release from prison.

Death Incident

The OKDHS received a report that Cody Welch had been under the influence and was driving with Jackson in the vehicle. Mr. Welch had an accident in Fort Gibson in the early morning of March 9, 2013, in which Jackson was ejected from the vehicle. Jackson was airlifted to a medical facility. According to documentation from medical personnel at the scene, Jackson was found approximately forty feet from the vehicle. At the time of the call to the OKDHS, Jackson had been admitted to the medical facility in critical condition and was on life support. He died from his injuries the evening of March 9, 2013.

The OKDHS documented an overall finding of Substantiated as to the allegations Neglect-Death and Neglect-Threat of Harm. Because there were neither juvenile survivors nor siblings to the decedent, the OKDHS did not need to request a petition for Emergency Custody.

The Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner found that the manner of death in this case was accidental with a probable cause of death listed as Multiple Blunt Force Injuries.

Prior Involvement with the Department of Human Services

There was no prior involvement with OKDHS that was pertinent to the death incident.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death incident

The OJSO identified no judicial proceedings prior to the death incident which would be pertinent to this report.