

**OKLAHOMA COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**OFFICE OF JUVENILE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT**

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**Report Release Date: August 17, 2015**

**Review of the Death of Kiyla Hosler**

**Of Cleveland County, Oklahoma**

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**General Information**

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of twenty-two-month-old Kiyla Hosler. The boyfriend of Kiyla's mother, Jeremy Robert Howard, was charged on April 18, 2013, with Murder in the First Degree-Child Abuse.

**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: Kiyla Hosler

Date of Birth: May 27, 2011

Date of Death: April 11, 2013

Person(s) Responsible for the Child (PRFC): Jeremy Robert Howard, significant other of biological mother

Biological Child One: Seven-years-old

Biological Child Two: Four-years-old

Biological Child Three: Eighteen-months-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 Jeremy Robert Howard on April 18, 2013, as Criminal Felony proceedings. The charge of Murder in the First Degree-Child Abuse was filed by the Cleveland County District Attorney's office. Mr. Howard was found guilty by jury verdict on December 15, 2014, and was sentenced to a prison term of life without the possibility of parole on February 18, 2015.

### **Death Incident (Cleveland County)**

The OKDHS received a report that Kiyra Hosler was found unresponsive in the family home by Mr. Howard on April 11, 2013. According to the documentation, Mr. Howard claimed he gave Kiyra a glass of water, went to the restroom, and found her

unresponsive when he returned. Documentation further indicated that the biological children of Mr. Howard were not present when this allegedly occurred.

The OKDHS accepted this as a Priority I Investigation. According to the documentation, medical personnel and law enforcement arrived at the family home but were unable to revive Kiyla, and she was taken to a medical facility where she was pronounced dead. During the course of the OKDHS investigation, Mr. Howard reportedly changed his story to reflect that he threw Kiyla into the air, struck her in the back of the head with a steel-toed boot, threw her face-down into the corner of the living room couch, and did not check her welfare for thirty minutes. After he found Kiyla in distress, Mr. Howard attempted to revive her by pouring water into her mouth. At the time of the report, Kiyla had a cast on her left leg from the thigh to the toes of her feet. Reportedly, in March, 2013, while in the sole care of Mr. Howard, the child had fallen off a couch and broken her leg.

The OKDHS Investigation was closed with a finding of Substantiated as to the allegations Abuse/Death by Mr. Howard as to Kiyla.

The Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner found that the manner of death in this case was Homicide, with a probable cause of death listed as Blunt Force Trauma to the Head. The Medical Examiner's report indicated that Kiyla had a hemorrhage on her right frontal lobe, a partially healed skull fracture, a partially healed cerebral contusion, and multiple acute scalpular and subscalpular contusions.

### **Prior Involvement with the Department of Human Services**

There were no prior pertinent reports of alleged abuse and neglect regarding the household involving Mr. Howard's biological children.

### **Judicial proceedings prior to the child's death incident**

The only pertinent prior judicial proceeding involving Mr. Howard prior to the death incident was that a protective order was issued against Mr. Howard on January 22, 2013, in Cleveland County District Court, on behalf of a former spouse. The protective order is effective until January 22, 2018.