

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

Report Release Date: June 12, 2015

Review of the Death of Christopher Jason White

Of Creek County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of three-year-old Christopher Jason White. Christopher Whinery was charged on January 26, 2015 with Murder in the First Degree – Child Abuse by the Creek County District Attorney.

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:	Christopher Jason White
Date of Birth:	January 24, 2011
Date of Death:	January 13, 2015
Persons Responsible for the Child:	Christopher Whinery Stepfather/mother's live in boyfriend

Sibling 1:	Older Sibling
Sibling 2:	Younger Sibling

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

Death Incident

According to the report received by OKDHS on January 13, 2015, Christopher was brought to a metropolitan hospital on January 13, 2015 by ambulance. Christopher had

severe head trauma and bruising on his body. The stepfather said that he witnessed Christopher jumping off his sibling's bed when he fell and hit his head on the floor. The step father reported that he went to aid Christopher and noticed that Christopher was breathing erratically and his eyes rolled back in this head. He then stated that Christopher had a pulse but had stopped breathing. The stepfather began CPR and called 911. Christopher was transported to a metropolitan hospital and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The medical staff were of the opinion that the injuries that Christopher sustained could not have resulted from hitting his head on the floor as the parents reported. The mother stated that Christopher had "really bad ADHD" and acted out by hitting himself. Christopher died as a result of his injuries on January 15, 2015. The mother reported that the family had been involved with Child Protective Services in the past for suspected physical abuse to Christopher (September 14, 2014). According to the mother, in September, Christopher got upset and rubbed his neck against the seat belt of the car, which made the marks on his neck.

Prior involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

There was one report of abuse/neglect pertinent to Christopher's death.

On September 14, 2014 Creek County OKDHS received a Priority One referral indicating Abuse-Beating/Slapping as to Christopher Jason White by PRFC Christopher Whinery. It was reported that the three year old had bruises on his ear, inner left thigh and neck. According to the OKDHS report, both Christopher and his sibling stated that they felt safe. The worker observed Christopher and found one slight bruise on the child's left thigh. The worker did not observe bruising on Christopher's ear and neck. The child's mother reported that the child's leg was hurt during a birthday party while playing with a friend.

A finding of Unsubstantiated was made by the OKDHS regarding the referral stating there was a lack of evidence of a bruise being caused by Christopher Whinery and the statements made by the children and collaterals indicated that the bruise was caused by playing at the birthday party.