

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

Report Release Date: August 30, 2016

**Review of the Death of Braydon Keith Lee Creech
of Tulsa County, Oklahoma**

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the death of Braydon Keith Lee Creech.

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:	Braydon Keith Lee Creech
Age at time of Incident:	Five Years-old
Date of Death:	March 20, 2015
PRFC:	Bryon Keith Creech

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

Criminal Charges

The charges of Murder in the First Degree, Shooting with Intent to Kill, Kidnapping, Child Abuse by Injury, Child Neglect, Burglary-Second Degree, and Violation of Protective Order was filed in Tulsa County District Court on March 31, 2015, against Bryon Creech, the child's father and Person Responsible for the Child (PRFC).

Death Incident

The Tulsa County OKDHS received a report on March 20, 2015, that the Tulsa Police had initially responded to a hostage situation at approximately 5:00 pm on March 19, 2015. The father (Bryon Creech) was believed to have been in violation of a protective order and had his five year-old son (Braydon Creech) in an apartment. The apartment belonged to Braydon's mother. Bryon allegedly broke into the apartment while she was away. Bryon had barricaded the door of the apartment and fired a gun approximately ten times while the police were at the scene. Bryon surrendered to the Tulsa Police at

10:30 am on March 20, 2015; approximately 17 hours after the standoff began, Braydon was found dead in the apartment.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority 1 Investigation. The OKDHS documented that on March 20, 2015, the OKDHS received a Joint Response Request from local law enforcement. The OKDHS documented that when they arrived at the apartment along with the Tulsa Police Child Crisis Detectives; Tulsa Homicide Detectives had already begun their investigation.

The OKDHS documented that the information gathered during the investigation showed Braydon Creech was the biological child of Bryon Creech. Braydon split his time between his mother's home and Bryon's home evenly as per the parent's custody agreement. According to the OKDHS and family court records, Braydon's mother and Bryon were in the middle of an ever escalating divorce. The OKDHS records report that Bryon was seen on March 19, 2015, via a surveillance application on the mother's phone, entering her apartment with Braydon while she was at work. The mother contacted the Tulsa Police Department regarding the alleged break-in and watched the police arrive at the apartment and then leave again, via the surveillance application. Once the mother arrived to her apartment, she contacted the Tulsa Police a second time and waited in the parking lot for them to arrive. The mother and a police officer went to the front door and when the officer tried to enter the apartment he found the door barricaded; as the police officer was backing away from the apartment, the first gun shot was heard from inside the apartment.

On March 20, 2015 at approximately 10:30 am, Bryon Creech exited his soon to be ex-wife's apartment and was placed under arrest by the Tulsa Police Department. At this time, the police entered the apartment and discovered Braydon Creech's body; the on scene medic pronounced Braydon Creech's death at 10:35 am. The Medical Examiner's report documented that the "Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound of Chest and Neck. Manner of Death: Homicide."

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated against Bryon Keith Creech. The family had no other children.

Prior Involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

There were two prior reports of involvement with the OKDHS which have been deemed pertinent to this report.

A report was received by Tulsa County OKDHS on August 31, 2014, alleging abuse by his mother and threat of harm by his father for knowing of alleged past abuse and not taking action to protect Braydon.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority 1 Investigation. Braydon was forensically interviewed but did not disclose any abuse or neglect.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Unsubstantiated-Services Recommended. Recommendations for the Creech family were “Family and Children’s Parenting Classes. Focus on Family: Surviving High Conflict.... Cooperative Parenting and Divorce...”. It was also recommended that Braydon Creech attend individual counseling.

A report was received by Tulsa County OKDHS on January 27, 2015. The report alleged that Braydon Creech’s mother pushed him down causing him to hit his back on a table, leaving bruising on Braydon’s inner thigh and a scratch on his back. The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority 2 with a two day due date. Braydon was seen by medical professionals, who documented that he did have “fading bruising” on his outer thigh that could not be ruled out or confirmed as abuse: there was no scratch on his back noted. The OKDHS noted that when Braydon was interviewed, Bryon was present and had to be warned at least twice to stop coaching Braydon during the interview. Braydon did not disclose any abuse or neglect toward his mother or father.

The OKDHS made an overall finding of Unsubstantiated-Services Recommended. Recommendations for the Creech family were for Braydon to continue receiving individual counseling and for the court to assign a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL).

Judicial proceedings prior to the child’s death

An Emergency Protective Order (EPO) was filed against Bryon Creech on July 30, 2014, by Braydon Creech’s mother on behalf of herself and Braydon. On September 22, 2014, Braydon was dismissed from the EPO, but it remained in effect for his mother. The final EPO was issued on December 01, 2015.