



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

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**Report Release Date: November 1, 2019**

**Review of the Death of Maddox Abner  
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 Maddox Abner. A charge of Murder-First Degree Child Abuse was filed in Cleveland County District Court on February 10, 2017, against Jake Ryan Holman, a Person Responsible for the Child (PRFC). Jake Ryan remains in custody of as the jury trial has been reset to September 9, 2019 with pretrial set for September 4, 2019.

**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: Maddox Abner  
Age at time of Incident: Eighteen Months  
Date of Death: February 4, 2017  
Alleged PRFC: Jake Ryan Holman

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

**Near Death Incident:**

It was documented by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) that by the time they were notified of the death of Maddox Abner, the Medical Examiner's Office had taken possession of the child's body and the scene had been cleared by law enforcement. It was reported by OKDHS that law enforcement stated that the mother reported that Maddox was unresponsive when they woke up that morning and Mr. Holman found the

child lying face down as if he had “fallen out and did a face plant.” The mother was reported by OKDHS to have stated to law enforcement that she was unable to see Maddox’s body as they could not move him, but she did see bruises on his face and both legs. The law enforcement Detective reported that they observed strange marks around Maddox’s neck. The Detective further stated the mother and Jake Holman both reported they did not know what happened to Maddox.

The mother reported to the detective that there had been other incidents when Maddox had received injuries while in the care of Jake Holman. It was documented that the injuries included: a broken arm, a large welt on his head, a black eye and a knot on the back of his head, as well as a split tongue. She further reported Jake Holman would tell her the child fell, hit his head on the dresser, or had fallen off the couch.

The Medical Examiner documented Maddox’s injuries and Cause of Death as Blunt Force Trauma. The Manner of Death was documented as Homicide. Maddox’s injuries included eleven contusions, and abrasions ranging from his lower lip to the scalp, neck, shoulder, abdomen and lower back. Internal injuries included a contusions to the lower and middle lobe of Maddox’s right lung. There was documentation that the gastric cardia, duodenum, transverse colon and sigmoid colon displayed hemorrhages as well multi focal hemorrhage of the small and large intestine and laceration of the gastrohepatic ligament. It was further documented that Maddox suffered an 8 cm transecting laceration of his liver, a 9.5 cm laceration of the right lateral lobe of his liver and a transecting laceration of his pancreas.

The OKDHS substantiated allegations of Abuse Death and Neglect Failure to Protect.

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

At the time of Maddox’s death, the OKDHS had an open investigation into the cause of Maddox’s broken arm alleged to have been the result of the child being left alone with Jake Holman. The OKDHS overall finding of that investigation, which was made after Maddox’s death, was unsubstantiated for two allegations of Abuse and one allegation of Failure to Protect the child. The OKDHS did substantiate an allegation of Lack of Supervision.