

## Office of Juvenile System Oversight

# REVIEW OF THE DEATHS OF MIRICLE CROOK & TONY CROOK, JR. TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Report Release Date: March 15, 2024

## OVERVIEW

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request to conduct a case review concerning the deaths of Tony Crook Jr. and Miricle Crook. On June 1, 2020, two felony counts of Murder in the Second Degree and one felony count of Assault and Battery on a Police Officer were filed against Donisha Willis by the Tulsa County District Court. On January 25, 2021, Ms. Willis was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to two amended counts of Child Neglect. The last five years of the sentence were ordered to be suspended. Ms. Willis also pled guilty to one count of Assault and Battery on a Police Officer and was sentenced to five years in prison to run concurrently with the other sentence.

## IDENTIFIERS

Child's Name:

Dates of Birth:

Date of Deaths:

Miricle Crook  
Tony Crook, Jr.

August 18, 2017  
May 18, 2018

February 12, 2020

Person Responsible for Child (PRFC):

Donisha Willis, Biological Mother

## ACTIONS

The release of the following summary of the actions taken by Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) and the proceedings in the district court is authorized by Title 10A O.S. § 1-6-105.

The OJSO did not become aware of this case until after the deaths of Miricle Crook and Tony Crook, Jr.

## DEATH INCIDENT

On May 23, 2020, the Tulsa County OKDHS office received a report that two children had gone missing from their mother's home. The report stated the children, Miricle Crook and Tony Crook Jr., were last seen at the home of Donisha Willis, their biological mother.

The guardian of the children stated that Ms. Willis was passed out in her apartment while the children were reported missing. Various witnesses and closed-circuit cameras later saw the children and were observed wandering alone in Ms. Willis's apartment complex. As law enforcement and OKDHS attempted to locate the children, Ms. Willis was uncooperative. During questioning, Ms. Willis denied having children.

Multiple agencies responded in the search for Miricle and Tony Jr. The search included local areas, creeks, and the vicinity of where the last camera recorded them. On May 27, 2020, OKDHS received notification that the bodies of two deceased children were found and awaiting identification. Later, the medical examiner's office determined the

cause of death for Miricle and Tony Jr. to be drowning.

On May 23, 2020, the OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation to be initiated by May 23, 2020.

## INVESTIGATION

On May 23, 2020, the Tulsa County OKDHS office initiated contact with the parents and guardian of the children. While investigating the report, OKDHS documented that a relative had legal guardianship over Miricle and Tony Jr. OKDHS reported that the relative lived in the same residence as Ms. Willis, Tony Jr., and Miricle.

OKDHS documented a physical confrontation between Ms. Willis and the guardian. Following the confrontation, the guardian moved out. The guardian called law enforcement about the incident, but nothing happened. Later in the report, it was documented that another physical altercation occurred between Ms. Willis and another relative who also resided in the apartment. The other relative also moved out, fearing what Ms. Willis would do.

On the day the children went missing, the guardian went to the apartment to check on them. The door to the apartment was left wide open, and the guardian noticed Ms. Willis asleep on the couch. That is when the guardian noticed the children were missing and reported it. After the children were reported missing, Ms. Willis was questioned by law enforcement at their office.

OKDHS was not informed of the interviews conducted by law enforcement. Any notes in the OKDHS report from the interviews were copied from law enforcement documents. It was noted that as an attempt to locate the children, law enforcement transported the children's incarcerated father to its office. Law enforcement asked the children's father to try to get Ms. Willis to disclose the children's location. It was documented that when questioned by the children's father, Ms. Willis replied, "What kids?"

The children's bodies were later recovered from two different creeks.

- OKDHS added the allegation of Neglect-Death to its report.
- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect-Death of Miricle and Tony Jr. by Donisha Willis.
- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect-Failure to Protect Miricle and Tony Jr. as to the Guardian and Other Relative.
- OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Failure to Protect Miricle and Tony Jr. as to Donisha Willis and the children's father.
- OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Death of Miricle and Tony Jr. as to the Guardian and Other Relative.
- OKDHS had no recommendations as to Miricle and Tony Jr. because they were found deceased.

## PRIOR INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRFC WITH OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES

### Pertinent Investigation 1:

On September 5, 2016, OKDHS received a report that two-week-old Miricle was taken to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Miricle was experiencing difficulty breathing with no apparent cause.

The report to OKDHS stated that while at the hospital, Ms. Willis slept most of the time and did not tend to Miricle. During the same hospital visit, Miricle's father was behaving aggressively towards hospital staff and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol.

On September 5, 2016, the OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Investigation, to be initiated on September 6, 2016.

As part of the Priority II Investigation, OKDHS documented that Miricle's father admitted using methamphetamines to OKDHS. Afterward, the hospital later informed OKDHS that while at the hospital, Miricle tested positive for methamphetamine. At that point, Miricle was placed into the custody of OKDHS. Substance

abuse programs were recommended to each parent.

- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect-Threat of Harm to Miricle as to both parents, and a deprived petition was requested.

On September 12, 2016, Miricle was placed into the custody of OKDHS. On December 5, 2016, an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) was ordered for Ms. Willis. The ISP was completed on May 10, 2017. Upon completion of the ISP, the court ordered the child's return to the care of the parent or legal guardian from whom the child was removed, also known as trial reunification.

### **Pertinent Investigation 2:**

On October 17, 2017, the Tulsa County OKDHS received a report that Ms. Willis was walking with her child, Miricle. During the walk, Miricle started falling, so Ms. Willis grabbed the child by the arm. At that time, Ms. Willis heard a pop sound. Ms. Willis took Miricle to a doctor to be examined.

OKDHS documented that the doctor stated this is a common injury when grabbing a falling child. When this incident occurred, Ms. Willis was carrying out a trial reunification with Miricle, and Comprehensive Home-Based Services (CHBS) was in the home to assist with the reunification, which began in June, 2017.

- OKDHS deemed no further action was required as Miricle was seen for medical treatment, and no other concerns were reported.

### **Pertinent Investigation 3:**

On May 2, 2018, OKDHS received a report that Ms. Willis gave birth to Tony Crook Jr. At the time of the child's birth, both Ms. Willis and Tony Jr.'s father were incarcerated. Ms. Willis also tested positive for marijuana. Medical staff also reported to the OKDHS that Tony Jr. showed signs of withdrawal. Results from an umbilical cord blood test were pending.

On May 2, 2018, the report was accepted and initiated as a Priority I Investigation. OKDHS initiated contact with the parties involved on the same day.

During the investigation, OKDHS documented that Tony Jr.'s umbilical cord blood tested positive for marijuana and Demerol. Ms. Willis stated she received the drugs from Tony Jr.'s father, whom Ms. Willis claimed is an addict. It was documented that Tony Jr.'s older sister, Miricle, lived with a relative. It was documented that Tony Jr.'s mother, Donisha Willis, took responsibility for her actions and advised that she would do what she needed to correct the mistakes. On May 3, 2018, it was documented that Family-Centered Services accepted the case and an in-home safety plan was implemented. Two family relatives served as monitors. It was documented that the safety plan monitors agreed not to allow Ms. Willis to be left alone with the children.

- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect-Threat of Harm to Tony Crook Jr., by Donisha Willis.

### **Pertinent Investigation 4:**

On December 19, 2019, OKDHS received a report that Donisha Willis and her children, Miricle and Tony Crook Jr., were wandering around a hospital. Ms. Willis did not appear to be "in her right mind." OKDHS documented that, reportedly, Ms. Willis did not know where she was or any personal demographic information. Ms. Willis admitted to using methamphetamines.

On December 19, 2019, OKDHS accepted and initiated the report as a Priority I Investigation. OKDHS initiated contact with the parties involved on the same day.

OKDHS documented that law enforcement reported that Ms. Willis tested positive for Phenylcyclohexyl Piperidine (PCP) and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). OKDHS documented that the guardian of Miricle and Tony Jr. could not make Ms. Willis leave the guardian's home, so the guardian let Ms. Willis stay there. Ms. Willis reported she took

Miricle and Tony Jr. from the home when the guardian fell asleep. It was further documented that OKDHS made attempts to speak to Miricle and Tony Jr.'s father, as well as further attempts to speak with Ms. Willis, which were unsuccessful. OKDHS documented that the guardian had no idea that Ms. Willis would act this way and stated that she would no longer allow Ms. Willis to visit Miricle and Tony Jr.

- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect-Threat of Harm to Miricle and Tony Jr. as to the mother, Donisha Willis.
- OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Failure to Protect Miricle and Tony Jr. as to the Guardian.

## JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO THE DEATHS OF THE CHILDREN

The OJSO identified the following relevant judicial proceedings which occurred prior to the death incident. On September 12, 2016, three-month-old Miricle Crook was removed from the home of Donisha Willis, who is Miricle's biological mother. Miricle was placed in out-of-home care after testing positive for methamphetamines at a metropolitan hospital.

On September 16, 2016, OKDHS requested the Tulsa District Attorney's office to file a deprived petition on behalf of Miricle Crook. On September 21, 2016, the Tulsa District Attorney's office filed the deprived petition. On November 14, 2016, Miricle Crook was adjudicated deprived as to the biological mother, Donisha Willis.

A dispositional hearing was held on December 5, 2016, and an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) was ordered. Donisha Willis was accepted into a family drug court program the same day.

On May 10, 2017, the court ordered Miricle's return to the care of Ms. Willis, also known as trial reunification. At the time, Ms. Willis was still enrolled in the family drug court program. On November 21, 2017, the deprived case involving Miricle was dismissed.

On January 9, 2019, a family relative petitioned for guardianship of the minors, Miricle and Tony Crook, Jr. On July 9, 2019, the petition was granted.