

## REVIEW OF THE DEATH OF LORRIA GREEN SEQUOYAH COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Report Release Date: June 26, 2024

### OVERVIEW

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request regarding the death of two-month-old Lorria Green. On January 5, 2022, the Sequoyah County District Attorney filed a felony charge of Murder in the First Degree – Child Abuse against the biological father, Dwight Green. As of the date of the publication of this report, various motions filed on behalf of the defendant are set for a hearing on June 27, 2024.

### IDENTIFIERS

Child's Name:	Date of Birth:	Date of Death:
Lorria Green	February 25, 2021	June 15, 2021
Person Responsible for Child (PRFC):	Additional Identifiers:	
Dwight Green	Sibling One: Two Years Old Sibling Two: Twelve Months Old	

### 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. § 1-6-105H.

The OJSO did not become aware of this case until after the death of Lorria Green.

### DEATH INCIDENT

On May 17, 2021, the OKDHS office in Sequoyah County received a near-death report. Reportedly, a local Sheriff's Department requested a joint response with the OKDHS after it was reported that two-month-old Lorria Green was found not breathing. Lorria Green was evaluated at a local hospital. They found multiple brain bleeds, and Lorria Green was life-flighted to a metropolitan hospital.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation.

### INVESTIGATION

On May 17, 2021, the OKDHS contacted the family. The persons interviewed during the investigation included Sibling One, Sibling Two, the biological mother, the biological father Dwight Green, other adult household members, and various third parties.

According to documentation from OKDHS, the emergency room doctor at the local hospital noted that Lorria Green had significant bruising on her face, as well as marks on her head and neck. She was reported to be not

breathing and was listed as very critical.

On May 17, 2021, the OKDHS interviewed the biological mother. The mother stated that fifteen minutes after she had arrived at work, she received a call from the father, Dwight Green. He stated the baby was not breathing and he had called an ambulance. When the biological mother arrived home, the ambulance had already taken Lorria Green to the hospital. When the biological mother asked Dwight Green what happened, he said he did not know, and the baby stopped breathing.

The OKDHS questioned the biological mother about the bruises on Lorria Green. On May 13, 2021, the previous week, the biological mother reported when she returned home from the grocery store, Lorria Green had bruises on her. Mr. Green told her that Sibling One had hit the baby with a toy mop on the head and face. She wanted to take Lorria Green to the hospital, but Mr. Green talked her out of it because Mr. Green feared OKDHS would become involved. The mother reported that Lorria Green appeared to be okay.

On May 17, 2021, the OKDHS interviewed the biological father, Dwight Green. The OKDHS questioned Dwight Green about what happened. Mr. Green reported that shortly after the mother left for work, Lorria Green woke up and was fussy. Mr. Green stated he walked out of the room to tend to Sibling Two, and when he returned, Lorria Green was gasping for air. Mr. Green reported picking up Lorria Green and taking her to a family member in the home for help. A family member called 911, and until the ambulance arrived, they walked Mr. Green through Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The worker asked about Lorria Green's injuries. Mr. Green stated that, on May 13, 2021, he was in the living room while the children were in their bedroom. Mr. Green reported he heard Lorria Green cry, so Mr. Green ran to check on Lorria Green. Mr. Green found Sibling One had hit the baby in the face and head with a toy mop. Mr. Green stated that they did not take the baby to the hospital because they did not have a ride, and his wife feared OKDHS would take the children. Mr. Green reported that Lorria Green appeared fine. Mr. Green had no other explanation for the injuries.

A child abuse pediatrician confirmed the injuries were from physical abuse. The report states, "The injuries were consistent with a rotational acceleration/deceleration (shaking) mechanism."

The OKDHS worker documented that Mr. Green appeared very controlling over the biological mother and the children. The biological mother agreed. The worker asked about physical incidents. The biological mother reported there had been some physical incidents a long time ago. The biological mother refused to elaborate on any details.

An allegation of Neglect-Exposure to Domestic Violence as to Lorria Green, Sibling One, and Sibling Two by their biological father, Dwight Green, was also added. During her interview, the biological mother disclosed a domestic altercation with Dwight Green. The OKDHS spoke with the third parties, who reported that Mr. Green is very controlling over the biological mother and the children. Mr. Green will not allow contact with the maternal side of the family. It was also reported that Mr. Green had used methamphetamine in the past and he smokes marijuana.

On May 17, 2021, Lorria Green was admitted to a metropolitan hospital.

On May 22, 2021, a metropolitan hospital doctor stated, "In order to be diagnosed as brain dead, she [Lorria Green] has to go 5 mins [minutes] without a breath. Lorria took a small gasp at 4 mins. [minutes]. He stated that it's not enough to sustain life. [The doctor] stated that Lorria has no cranial, retinal, limb, or gag reflexes. He stated that she will never wake up, talk, eat, run, or play. He recommends that the parents let her be comfortable and pass."

Lorria Green's prognosis was bleak. The doctors and OKDHS spoke with Mr. Green and Mrs. Green about withdrawing life support as it was reported that Lorria Green had no brain function and would never wake up.

On June 15, 2021, the Sequoyah County Court authorized the withdrawal of life support for Lorria Green. The child was reported to be brain dead. Lorria Green's computerized tomography (CT) scan showed she had a severe brain injury from which she could not recover. Two metropolitan hospital doctors reported the ethical thing to do would be to withdraw life support to allow Lorria to pass away naturally. The judge found by a Standard of Clear and Convincing that it would be in the child's best interest to follow the recommendations of Lorria Green's physicians at the metropolitan hospital. Mr. Green and the biological mother objected to the judge's finding.

The medical examiner's report determined Lorria Green's cause of death as "Complications of Blunt Force Trauma." The manner of death was listed as "Homicide."

- The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Abuse/Death by the biological father, Dwight Green, and the biological mother of Lorria Green.
- The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect/Exposure to Domestic Violence by the biological father, Dwight Green, to Lorria Green, Sibling One, and Sibling Two.
- The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect/Failure to Protect by the biological mother of Lorria Green.
- The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect/Threat of Harm by the biological father, Dwight Green, to Sibling One and Sibling Two.
- The OKDHS requested a deprived petition be filed on behalf of the children.
- The OKDHS requested Shocking and Heinous with Immediate Termination of Parental Rights be made.

On May 17, 2021, the children were removed from the home and placed into emergency custody of OKDHS. On July 18, 2022, Dwight Green and the biological mother relinquished their parental rights. On November 18, 2022, the children were adopted, and the OKDHS case was closed.

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

### Pertinent Investigation

There was one pertinent report prior to the death of Lorria Green. On October 6, 2020, the report was received by the OKDHS.

- The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation.

The persons interviewed during the investigation included Sibling One, Sibling Two, the biological mother, the biological father, Dwight Green, other adult household members, and various third parties.

Dwight Green and the biological mother are reported to smoke methamphetamine. The caller told the interviewer the biological parents had smoked methamphetamine a few days ago. The biological parents stay in their bedroom for hours with the door closed, leaving their children unattended. Sibling One would stand crying at the door but was ignored by the biological parents. The children were hungry and needed diapers changed. Sibling One reportedly only gets fed once daily and a diaper change one to two times daily. Every time Sibling Two cries, the parents put a bottle in the baby's mouth. Sibling Two was reported to be overfed by the parents. Sibling One has escaped out of the home once. The children are reported to be put to sleep at seven p.m. in the evening. The children are made to sleep until two p.m. the following day.

OKDHS documentation noted that Sibling One had accessed the marijuana and bongs belonging to their biological father, Dwight Green. Additionally, it was reported that Dwight Green and the biological mother kept their methamphetamine appropriately stored. Documentation indicated that the entire family wore soiled clothing, with Dwight Green and the biological mother appearing ungroomed, unclean, and in poor health, both displaying significant weight loss.

OKDHS documentation noted that Sibling Two had fallen off furniture several times due to lack of supervision. The house was filled with trash, and the parents didn't take their dogs outside, resulting in pee and poop left all over the floor for days. Even when they cleaned it up, they left dirty towels lying around. Additionally, the toilet was broken and used to flood, and there was mold on the walls.

On October 6, 2020, Mr. Green was interviewed and denied using methamphetamine. Mr. Green reported he had used methamphetamine in the past. Mr. Green reported smoking marijuana outside of the home. Mr. Green denied all the other allegations. Mr. Green stated he was outside with Sibling One in the backyard, filling the family pool when Sibling One snuck away up front, and this was the only time Sibling One was ever left unattended.

On October 6, 2020, the biological mother was interviewed and denied using drugs. She stated she was pregnant. The biological mother reported having her marijuana medical card but is not currently using marijuana. The biological mother reported they do not leave the children unattended.

The worker documented that the parents were coherent and able to converse. Both biological parents denied the allegations. The biological parents did not appear to show any behaviors commonly associated with drugs.

Third parties said good things about the family. The worker noted a faint animal odor but found no feces on the floor despite the family having a dog. Dirty dishes cluttered the kitchen, and the floors were unclean. However, upon follow-up, the home had been cleaned up.

- The OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Threat of Harm by the biological father, Dwight Green, and the biological mother of Lorria Green.
- The OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect- Lack of Supervision by the biological father, Dwight Green, and the biological mother of Lorria Green.
- The OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Inadequate Dangerous Shelter by the biological father, Dwight Green, and the biological mother of Lorria Green.
- The OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect-Inadequate Nutrition by the biological father, Dwight Green, and the biological mother.

## **JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO THE CHILD'S NEAR-DEATH**

The OJSO identified no relevant judicial proceedings prior to the death incident.