

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

Report Release Date: June 12, 2015

Review of the Near Death of B.S.

of McClain County, Oklahoma

General Information

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request for a public report regarding the near death of four-month-old B.S. A Felonious Child Abuse charge was filed by the McClain County District Attorney on March 13, 2015, against Christopher Matthew Thomas, the child's stepfather.

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:	B. S.
Age at time of Incident:	Four-months-of-age
Person Responsible for the Child:	Christopher Matthew Thomas

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) did not have a prior report that was pertinent to this incident.

Near Death Incident

The near death report was received by the McClain County OKDHS on February 10, 2015. Reportedly, the household consisted of the mother; a stepfather, Christopher Thomas; three-month-old B. S.; and two other siblings. Reportedly, B. S. was taken to a hospital by the PRFC due to him being pulled off of a bed by a sibling. The mother said she had left the child at home with the stepfather. Reportedly, the mother was told by the stepfather that he went into a room to change the child, walked off, and a sibling pulled B. S. off of the bed. Allegedly, B. S. landed on the floor. The stepfather reported

to the mother that he had to rub B. S. on the back to get him to cry. Reportedly, the stepfather called the mother, she came home, and then transported B. S. to a hospital. The child was listed in critical condition. Allegedly, B. S. had bruising on the upper left arm, the right leg, and groin area.

The OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority I Investigation. The OKDHS made an overall finding of Substantiated. B.S. and one sibling were placed into the OKDHS Emergency Custody on February 10, 2015. B.S. was found to have bilateral subdural hematomas, bilateral retinal hemorrhaging, and bruising to the body. Medical personnel advised the injuries were caused by non-accidental trauma.

Prior Pertinent Involvement of the PRFC with the Department of Human Services

There had been one prior report of alleged abuse/neglect that was pertinent to the near death incident.

A report was received on December 10, 2014, and was Screened-Out by the OKDHS. This report contained allegations that Christopher Thomas had slapped B.S.'s sibling on the face so hard that the child "went flying across the room". However, an electronic email was sent to the assigned worker and supervisor advising a report had been received. (A referral had been previously opened related to other issues not pertinent to the near death incident).

The OKDHS reached a finding of Unsubstantiated regarding all of the prior allegations and the allegations made on December 10, 2014. The OKDHS observed no safety threats or risks to the children and the home was observed to be safe. The mother and Christopher Thomas denied using any physical discipline on any of the children.

The OKDHS relied on observations made on a prior report and as such, did not make a home visit regarding the December 10, 2014 report.

Judicial proceedings prior to the child's near death:

None as to B.S.