



**REVIEW OF THE NEAR DEATH OF K.H.
OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**

Report Release Date: March 31, 2023

Overview

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request regarding the near-death of ten-year-old K.H. Wisconsin's Milwaukee County District Attorney filed a felony charge of Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety on May 26, 2019, against the biological mother, Alisha Newman. On May 5, 2021, Ms. Newman entered a plea of guilty. On September 29, 2021, Ms. Newman was sentenced to six years imprisonment. However, the court stayed the sentence and placed her on probation for a period of five years.

Identifiers

Child's Name:	K.H.	Sibling One:	Thirteen Years
Age at Time of Incident:	Ten Years	Sibling Two:	Fifteen Years
Date of Near-Death:	May 7, 2019		

Person(s) Responsible for the Child (PRFC):
· Alisha Newman

Actions

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

The OJSO did not become aware of this case until after the near-death of K.H.

Near-Death Incident

The near-death report was received by the Oklahoma County OKDHS on May 21, 2019, due to the family residing in Oklahoma at the time. The near-death incident that prompted the report occurred in Wisconsin. In 2016, the child had a previous near-death incident in Oklahoma with unsubstantiated findings concerning the mother's failure to obtain medical care.

Reportedly, ten-year-old K.H. had a pacemaker, a gastrostomy tube, and an internal IV central port line; all of which were said to not be medically necessary. It was reported the mother, Alisha Newman, had K.H. seen in five different states by numerous doctors. Ms. Newman reported K.H. suffered from Muscular Dystrophy. However, genetic testing and muscle testing were completed. Both tests showed K.H. did not suffer from Muscular Dystrophy.

K.H. was admitted to a medical facility in Wisconsin on May 7, 2019, in septic shock from an infection of the IV central port line. It was reported that the IV central port was open to the outside, which put K.H. at great risk of



infection and possibly death. It was reported Ms. Newman would give false oral medical history and diagnoses to each medical professional in different medical facilities as she traveled with K.H. In fact, Ms. Newman claimed K.H. was dying and had a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order for K.H.

The OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority I Investigation.

Investigation

The persons interviewed during the investigation included the biological mother, Alisha Newman, and various collaterals.

K.H. was admitted to a medical facility in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on May 7, 2019. Upon admittance, K.H. was near death, had severe sepsis with end-stage organ damage, acidosis, and acute renal injury. Ms. Newman reported K.H. suffered from an immune deficiency disorder called Dysautonomia, Muscular Dystrophy, a mitochondrial disorder, and severe dysmotility. K.H. had a pacemaker, a gastrostomy tube, and an internal IV central port line. Ms. Newman had an active DNR order in place for K.H. K.H. was found to have an infected port after being examined by a medical professional. Medical professionals wanted to remove the port. However, Ms. Newman would not allow the port to be removed.

Medical professionals realized Ms. Newman reported conflicting information from what was in K.H.'s medical records. As medical professionals researched the medical records further, they had significant concerns. Medical records showed Ms. Newman took K.H. to medical facilities all over the country.

Medical professionals determined K.H. had no active medical diagnoses and did not need any medications. K.H. was weaned off all medications, and the IV port and gastrostomy tube were removed.

The OKDHS documented medical professionals in Wisconsin confirmed medical child abuse on May 23, 2019, and determined Ms. Newman suffered from Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding as to the allegations of Abuse/Fabricated or Induced Illness and Abuse/Near Death by Alisha Newman to K.H. The OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding as to Neglect/Threat of Harm by Alisha Newman to Sibling One and Sibling Two. The OKDHS did not request a deprived petition as K.H., Sibling One, and Sibling Two were safe with a relative.

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

The OJSO identified one pertinent report of child abuse prior to the near-death incident.

The report was received by Oklahoma County OKDHS on September 1, 2016.

Reportedly, K.H. suffered from Dysautonomia, and the mother, Alisha Newman, stated K.H. was in hospice and receiving special and experimental treatments. Reportedly, on August 31, 2016, K.H. coded, had extremely low blood pressure, and a pulse could not be found. Ms. Newman posted on a social media site that a medical professional had her give K.H. a soda pop and an amphetamine through K.H.'s feeding tube to resuscitate K.H. Shortly thereafter, the stepfather took K.H. to work and then went to the store. The reporter was concerned that the care being described for K.H. did not make sense.

The OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation.

The OKDHS documented Ms. Newman disclosed that K.H. had flatlined but she called a medical professional who instructed her on what to do for K.H.

The OKDHS documented that when questioned, the medical professional stated they instructed Ms. Newman to continue the caffeine and the prescribed amphetamines to resuscitate K.H. The medical professional stated they were the first person Ms. Newman called when K.H. had episodes. The medical professional stated K.H. would frequently suffer from periods of erratic heart rate and low blood pressure, which resulted in K.H. becoming weak and sleepy. The OKDHS documented that K.H. had a DNR order.

The OKDHS documented collateral witnesses had no concerns regarding Ms. Newman's care for K.H.

The OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding as to the allegation of Failure to Obtain Medical Attention by Alisha Newman to K.H.

Judicial Proceedings Prior to the Child's Near Death

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