

Office of Juvenile System Oversight
**REVIEW OF THE NEAR-DEATH OF B.W.
MCCURTAIN COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**

Report Release Date: December 22, 2023

OVERVIEW

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) received a request regarding the near-death of eleven-month-old B.W. On September 10, 2019, the McCurtain County District Attorney filed a felony charge of Child Abuse against Jory Bullard. On November 17, 2021, the Oklahoma criminal case was dismissed due to the crime being committed in Indian Country. On May 21, 2021, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma charged Jory Bullard with Child Abuse in Indian Country.

IDENTIFIERS

Child's Name:

Age at Time of Incident:

Date of Near-Death:

B.W.

Eleven Months

June 18, 2019

Person Responsible for Child (PRFC):

Jory Bullard

ACTIONS

The release of the following summary of the actions taken by Oklahoma 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 near-death incident of B.W.

NEAR-DEATH INCIDENT

On June 18, 2019, a near-death report was received by the OKDHS office in McCurtain County. Reportedly, Emergency Management Services (EMS) was sent to the family home because

eleven-month-old B.W. was unresponsive. Upon arrival, EMS reported that B.W. had fallen off a stool while Jory Bullard was holding B.W. EMS reported that B.W. had new and old bruising on B.W.'s body. B.W. was taken by an ambulance to a medical facility, where B.W. was then life- flighted to another medical facility that could better meet B.W.'s needs. B.W. was taken into emergency surgery due to an uncontrollable brain bleed. A medical professional reported that B.W.'s injuries were consistent with non-accidental trauma.

OKDHS accepted this report as a Priority I Investigation.

INVESTIGATION

The persons interviewed during the investigation included Jory Bullard and various third parties.

OKDHS documented that the initial explanation for the injuries was that B.W. had fallen off a stool while Jory Bullard was holding B.W. OKDHS documented that the explanation changed twice during the initial contact. At one point, Mr. Bullard stated he went to throw a diaper away. Mr. Bullard's knee gave out, and he fell with B.W. Later, Mr. Bullard stated he accidentally dropped B.W. on B.W.'s head.

OKDHS documented that EMS observed B.W. having new and old bruises on the forehead and legs. When EMS arrived at the airport, "battle signs" had appeared in B.W.'s right ear, and the bruises on the right side of B.W.'s forehead had become more visible. B.W. remained unresponsive during the transport to the medical facility.

Following the life flight transport to the medical facility, OKDHS documented that B.W. was taken into emergency surgery to remove part of B.W.'s skull due to swelling and a brain bleed. Medical professionals reported it was an old brain bleed, and the fall caused it to start bleeding again and more severely. Medical professionals had to shave B.W.'s head in preparation for the surgery. Upon shaving B.W.'s head, it was discovered that B.W. had new and old bruises all over B.W.'s skull. It was reported that B.W.'s body was also covered in bruises from head to toe in different stages of healing. There were bruises up and down B.W.'s spine and bruises on the genital area. Medical professionals ruled all of B.W.'s injuries as non-accidental trauma.

OKDHS documented that over the next few days, B.W. underwent additional testing to determine if there was a possibility that B.W. suffered from Shaken Baby Syndrome. It was reported that B.W. had suffered a severe stroke on the right side of the brain. Medical professionals had to hook B.W. to Electroencephalogram (EEG) machines to monitor for possible seizure activity. Medical professionals reported that B.W. had a lot of left-side weakness that would need to be monitored to determine what function and strength might come back as B.W. heals.

OKDHS documented that over the following weeks, B.W. made stellar improvements and was taken off all machines. B.W. was transferred to a different medical facility where B.W. would undergo rehabilitation services.

OKDHS documented that weeks before the near-death incident, numerous third parties reported seeing a lot of fingerprint bruises and a huge bruise on B.W.'s buttocks.

OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding on the allegation of Neglect-Near-Death as to Jory Bullard on B.W. OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding on the allegation of Abuse-Beating- Hitting as to Jory Bullard on B.W. On June 19, 2019, OKDHS requested and received emergency custody of B.W.

On July 30, 2019, the McCurtain County District Attorney filed a deprived petition regarding the physical abuse B.W. endured by Jory Bullard.

PRIOR INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRFC WITH OKLAHOMA HUMAN SERVICES

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JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO THE CHILD'S NEAR-DEATH

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