

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

Report Release Date: November 9, 2007

**Review of the Near Death of Zackery Felber
of Garfield County, Oklahoma**

**Dates and Outcome of Investigations and Actions Taken by the
Department of Human Services; Actions Taken by the District
Attorney; Dates and Summary of Judicial Proceedings; and Rulings
of the Court**

General Information

On September 26, 2007, the Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) was made aware of the near death of Zackery Felber, a one-month-old child who had been taken to the hospital because of a skull fracture. A criminal felony child abuse charge was filed on the mother's boyfriend, J. C. Crase, on October 2, 2007. Mr. Crase was the person responsible for Zackery at the time of the child's near-death incident. The following is a summary of the actions taken by the Department of Human Services (DHS); the actions taken by the district attorney's office; judicial proceedings; and the rulings of the court, as authorized by 10 O. S., Section 7005-1.9, D and E (below).

Authorization

Title 10, Section 7005-1.9, D and E, of the Oklahoma Statutes, states:

- D. 1. At any time subsequent to seven (7) days, but no more than thirty (30) days, of the date the person responsible for the child has been criminally charged, the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth shall, upon request, release certain information to the public as follows:
 - a. a confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether a report of suspected child abuse or neglect has been made concerning the alleged victim or other children while living in the same household and whether an investigation has begun,
 - b. confirmation shall be provided by the Commission as to whether previous reports of suspected child abuse or neglect have been made and the dates thereof, a summary of those previous reports, the dates and outcome of any investigations or actions taken by the Department [DHS] and the Commission in response to any previous report of child abuse or neglect, and the specific

recommendation made to the district attorney and any subsequent action taken by the district attorney,

c. the dates of any judicial proceedings prior to the death or near death of the child,

d. recommendations submitted by the Department [DHS] and the Commission shall be provided in writing including recommendations made at the hearing as they relate to custody or placement of a child, and

e. the rulings of the court.

2. Specific recommendations made by the Commission described in any progress reports of a pending case submitted to the court may be disclosed by the Commission.

E. Any disclosure of information pursuant to this section shall not identify or provide an identifying description of any complainant or reporter of child abuse or neglect, and shall not identify the name of the child victim's siblings or other children living in the same household, the parent or other person responsible for the child or any other member of the household, other than the person criminally charged.

Identifiers:

Name of Child in the
Near-Death Incident: Zackery Felber
Date of Birth: August 20, 2007

Alleged Perpetrator: J. C. Crase

The Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth did not become aware of this case until after the child's near death.

Summary of Actions Taken by the Department of Human Services; Action Taken by the District Attorney; Judicial Proceedings; and the Rulings of the Court:

The OJSO reviewed the referral regarding Zackery Felber's near-death incident. At the time of the near-death incident, J. C. Crase was the boyfriend of Zackery's biological mother.

Referral 1 (September 26, 2007)

The DHS received a referral alleging a baby, Zackery Felber, had been taken to the hospital because his skull was crushed. The reporter stated that the baby had suffered brain damage from the injury. The reporter alleged that J. C. Crase, the boyfriend of

Zachery's biological mother, had past court involvement regarding physical abuse to his three-month-old biological child.

Emergency Custody Order (September 26, 2007)

The Garfield County court issued an emergency custody order on September 26, 2007, to place Zackery into DHS custody.

Criminal Charge Filed (October 2, 2007)

The district attorney filed a criminal felony child abuse charge on J. C. Crase, the mother's boyfriend, on October 2, 2007.

DHS's Investigative Findings (October 15, 2007)

The DHS investigation regarding Zackery's near-death incident was completed on October 15, 2007. The DHS made a finding of Confirmed-Abuse as to J. C. Crase and a finding of Confirmed-Failure to Protect as to Zackery's biological mother.