

Office of Juvenile System Oversight

REVIEW OF THE NEAR DEATH OF K.K. MARSHALL COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Report Release Date: March 7, 2025

OVERVIEW

On December 10, 2024, the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, was charged with felony DUI Great Bodily Injury and Child Endangerment DUI by the Marshall County District Attorney.

IDENTIFIERS

Child's Name:	Age at Time of Incident:	Date of Near-Death Incident:
K.K.	12 Months Old	April 28, 2024
Person Responsible for Child (PRFC):	Additional Identifiers:	
Angel Ornelas	Sibling One, Nine Years Old Sibling Two, Eleven Years Old	

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 Title 10A § 1-6-105H.

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

NEAR-DEATH INCIDENT

On April 28, 2024, the OKDHS office in Marshall County received a near-death report. Reportedly, the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, K.K., and Sibling One were involved in a motor vehicle collision. It was reported that while driving down the road, Ms. Ornelas fell asleep and hit another vehicle head on. Sibling One was in the front seat, and K.K. was in the back seat in a forward-facing car seat. K.K. was not old enough and did not weigh enough to be in a forward-facing car seat. It was reported that K.K. has fractures to the thoracic spine and mild acute compression fractures of T2-T5 superior end plates. K.K. was reported to be in serious but stable condition. K.K. also had abrasions from the car seat belt. Sibling One had lacerations to their face but was discharged to a third party. Ms. Ornelas had a fractured left distal femur, a liver laceration, and a spleen laceration. It was reported that Ms. Ornelas tested positive for cocaine, cannabis, benzodiazepines, amphetamines, and opiates. However, the medical facility ruled out the opiate result since medical professionals gave Ms. Ornelas opiates. Ms. Ornelas did not state if she had a prescription for benzodiazepines or amphetamines. Ms. Ornelas admitted to using methamphetamine within the last three to four days and stated she had been trying to stop using it. Ms. Ornelas admitted to having a drink of alcohol three to four hours before the wreck; however, her ethanol level was negative.

- OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation.

INVESTIGATION

The persons interviewed during the investigation included the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, and various third parties.

On April 29, 2024, Sibling One reported that Ms. Ornelas had been drinking the night before the accident. The following day, Sibling One was asked to leave a third party's house because the third party was upset that someone had smoked all the cigarettes and accused Ms. Ornelas of smoking them and breaking a phone. Sibling One then asked Ms. Ornelas, while they were getting food, if she was still drunk from the night before. Ms. Ornelas assured Sibling One that she was not drunk. Sibling One also reported that Ms. Ornelas smoked marijuana, though not around Sibling One or K.K. Sibling One stated that they would watch K.K. when Ms. Ornelas smoked marijuana.

Since K.K. had been taken to a medical facility in Texas, Texas Child Protective Services (CPS) interviewed Ms. Ornelas on April 30, 2024. During the interview, Ms. Ornelas stated that she had used methamphetamine a week earlier and that she had used cocaine once. She also claimed that the other vehicle involved in the accident was at fault and downplayed the severity of the situation. The Texas CPS worker noted that Ms. Ornelas appeared to be showing symptoms of withdrawal. Ms. Ornelas admitted to using methamphetamine intermittently since 2011.

On the same day, April 30, 2024, a third party reported that when Ms. Ornelas becomes angry, she will drive erratically with K.K. in the vehicle. The third party also stated that Ms. Ornelas appeared "really strung out" and described her as a drug addict, adding that if she were drug tested, drugs would likely be found in her system.

- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect/Threat of Harm by Ms. Ornelas to K.K., and Sibling One.
- OKDHS made a Substantiated Finding of Neglect/Near Death by Ms. Ornelas to K.K.

OKDHS recommended that a deprived petition be filed on behalf of K.K. and Sibling One. Sibling Two was found to be safe in the custody of a third party.

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

There were three pertinent reports prior to the near-death incident of one-year-old K.K.

Pertinent Report 1

On February 21, 2014, the first pertinent report was received by the OKDHS office in Marshall County. It was reported that the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, had a four-month-old child. Additionally, it was reported that Ms. Ornelas had used drugs and had been in jail the previous weekend for possession of controlled substances and unlawful possession of paraphernalia.

- OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority I Investigation

The OKDHS observed Sibling Two at a third party's house. Sibling Two appeared to be clean and healthy. The third party stated that Ms. Ornelas was hanging out with the wrong crowd but had told those people not to come around anymore. The third party also stated that Ms. Ornelas was a good mother. The OKDHS attempted to speak with Ms. Ornelas; however, these attempts were unsuccessful.

- OKDHS made a No Finding/Failure to Cooperate finding of Neglect/Threat of Harm by Ms. Ornelas to Sibling Two.

Pertinent Report 2

On February 26, 2014, the second pertinent report was received by the OKDHS office in Marshall County. Reportedly, on February 15, 2014, the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, was picked up by law enforcement. Ms. Ornelas was charged with possession of alcohol, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia. It was reported that at intake,

Ms. Ornelas was asked if she could pass a drug test, and she stated, "No." It was reported that Ms. Ornelas was not given a drug test at that time. It was unknown if Ms. Ornelas used drugs or alcohol in the home or around Sibling Two.

- OKDHS screened-out this report as a duplicate to a previous report made.

Pertinent Report 3

On October 25, 2023, the third pertinent report was received by the OKDHS office in Marshall County. Reportedly, the biological mother, Angel Ornelas, was in a relationship with a third party who had a case against them to where they could not be around any children. It was reported there was a picture of the third party, Ms. Ornelas, and her children. It was reported that Ms. Ornelas had a history of drug use.

- OKDHS accepted the report as a Priority II Investigation

Sibling One reported that Ms. Ornelas did not drink around them. Sibling One reported no one in the home used illegal substances. Sibling One reported Ms. Ornelas had not smoked marijuana recently. Ms. Ornelas denied any use of illegal substances.

OKDHS documented that since the investigation, Ms. Ornelas has no longer been in a relationship with the third party, and she and the children do not live with the third party anymore. OKDHS documented Ms. Ornelas ended the relationship after she learned about the third party's history.

- OKDHS made an Unsubstantiated Finding of Neglect/Threat of Harm by Ms. Ornelas to K.K. and Sibling One.

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO THE CHILD'S NEAR-DEATH

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