



4/16/2026

Dear Dr. Olivia Irby,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the compassion, integrity, and extraordinary care you showed my family on the most devastating day of our lives. It is with profound respect and appreciation that I nominate you for the Willow Award.

On April 30, 2023, our daughter, Reighny Roark, fell into a river at my mother's home in Hot Springs and was airlifted to ACH PICU. When we arrived, you and your team took over her care without knowing the full circumstances of what had happened. In a situation where assumptions could have easily been made, you instead met us with calmness, respect, and understanding. In one of our most vulnerable moments, your demeanor provided a sense of dignity and humanity we will never forget. When Reighny arrived, she had lost her pulse during transport and could have been declared deceased. Instead, you made the courageous and compassionate decision to continue trying. We will never forget turning the corner and witnessing the intensity of full resuscitation efforts, nor the moment you gently yet honestly prepared us for what might come. Your ability to lead your team through that moment—while also caring for us as parents—was remarkable. That “extra” effort, that one more round, gave our daughter a chance. Though supported by machines, her heart was beating and she was breathing, and that meant everything to us.

As the hours passed, we leaned on your honesty to guide us through unimaginable decisions. When we asked about her future, you spoke truthfully—even when the answers were uncertain and difficult. Your transparency gave us clarity and, ultimately, peace. You did not offer false hope, but you never stopped offering compassion.

You walked alongside us as we faced the reality of Reigny's condition—her instability, the seizures, and the risk of multi-organ failure. You spoke to us not only as a physician, but as a human being who understood the weight of what we were enduring. When the time came for us to make the most painful decision of our lives—to let our daughter go—you ensured it was made with understanding, honesty, and love.

For a long time, we questioned that decision. Looking back, however, learning that Reigny could still become a heart valve donor and help save the lives of other children brought us comfort as we navigated the heartbreaking loss of the opportunity for organ donation. Your honesty in that moment protected our daughter from further suffering and guided us through an unimaginable decision with compassion, grace, and kindness.

Our daughter was perfectly healthy the day before. In less than 24 hours, our world changed forever. Yet even in that darkness, your care left a lasting light. The impact you had on our family goes far beyond medical treatment—you gave us clarity, dignity, and peace in our most painful moments.

For all of these reasons, we are honored to nominate you for the Willow Award. Please continue to be the extraordinary physician and person that you are. Your work makes a difference that reaches far beyond the walls of the ACH PICU.

With sincere gratitude,

The Reigny Chanel Roark Family