



NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Man Sentenced to Prison for Shaking Baby, Causing Permanent Injuries

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Ryan D. Hudson, 26, of Springfield, MO was sentenced Wednesday for abusing his former girlfriend's four-month-old child by shaking the infant.

Hudson was sentenced by The Honorable Calvin Holden to five years in the Missouri Department of Corrections for one count of the class C felony of Abuse of a Child.

Following a bench trial held on May 9, 2013, the Honorable Calvin Holden found Hudson guilty of Abuse of a Child. At trial, the Court heard testimony that the Defendant was responsible for the infant's care during the day while the mother was at work. When the mother returned home from work on June 3, 2011, the infant was not acting normal. During the early morning of June 4, 2011, the infant began having seizures and was taken to the hospital. The Court heard from several Mercy Hospital doctors, who testified the child had numerous internal injuries including subdural hemorrhages, retinal hemorrhages, and skull fractures. The doctors testified that these injuries were consistent with non-accidental trauma consistent with Shaken Infant Impact Syndrome. As a result of these injuries, the child has permanent vision loss in one eye. On June 13, 2013, Judge Holden issued his verdict of guilty and scheduled a sentencing hearing.

At the sentencing hearing held on August 21, 2013, the State requested the maximum sentence of seven years in the Missouri Department of Corrections, arguing that by shaking the infant, the defendant caused permanent damage to the child. The child's mother addressed the Court, advising the judge of the on-going impact the abuse has had on her child's health, including delays in walking and vision impairment, as well

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as behavioral problems. The defense asked the judge to grant probation, citing his lack of prior felony convictions. Judge Holden sentenced the defendant to a five year prison term.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Nathan Chapman and Emily Monroe. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Eric Reece was the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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