



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kenneth Johnson Sentenced for the Murder of a Toddler

Today, April 27, 2023, Kenneth Johnson (37, of Fresno) was sentenced for the second-degree murder of a toddler back in the fall of 2016. Johnson was sentenced to a term of 15 to life. Today's sentence was handed down by the Honorable Mark Cullers in Department 11 of the Fresno Superior Court after Johnson entered a guilty plea back on March 2, 2023.

On November 20, 2016, officers responded to the hospital for a non-breathing 14-month-old victim who presented with extensive injuries to the abdomen and head. The subsequent investigation determined that the child, while in the sole care of the Johnson, received critical liver and brain injuries. The evidence revealed that these injuries were consistent with blunt force trauma associated with an assault. Tragically, the child did not survive these injuries. Johnson admitted to punching the child in the stomach and was witnessed by another minor in the home striking the child in the face with a hard object. No other adults were in the home at the time the assault occurred.

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office would like to thank the Fresno Police Department for their dedication to this case.

This case successfully prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Amy Cobb. Ms. Cobb was assisted by District Attorney Senior Investigator Elizabeth Cisneros from the Fresno County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigations.

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