



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Woodland Man Convicted for Abusing Infant

Woodland, CA – January 27, 2010- On January 26, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted Richard Andrew Schirnhofner, 19, of Woodland, of four counts of child abuse to his girlfriend's infant daughter. The jury also found Schirnhofner personally inflicted great bodily injury upon the infant when he broke her ribs during one of the abusive occasions he was convicted of.

On October 20, 2008, Yolo County Child Protective Services took custody of the seven month-old infant because the infant's mother had attempted suicide. When Child Protective Services took custody of the infant, a social worker changed the infant's diaper and immediately saw red and purple bruising to the infant's genital area. The infant was taken to the University of California Davis Medical Center's Child and Adolescent Resource and Evaluation Diagnostic and Treatment Center for medical evaluation. The medical professionals determined the infant was a battered baby. The professionals found that the severe bruising in the infant's genital area was most likely caused by slamming the infant down on a hard surface. The professionals also noted the infant suffered fractures to numerous other bones.. The infant also had bruising on her buttocks and jaw.

The Yolo County District Attorney's Office prosecuted Schirnhofner and the mother Jessica Carpenter for their criminal acts. On February 17, 2009, Carpenter chose to plead guilty to all five counts she was charged with, admitting she failed to protect her daughter from Schirnhofner. On June 17, 2009, Yolo Superior Court Judge Arvid Johnson imposed the maximum prison sentence for Carpenter. Judge Johnson sentenced Carpenter to six years and eight months in state prison.

During the two week jury trial for Schirnhofner, Carpenter testified that she failed to protect her daughter from Schirnhofner's abuse. While the jury convicted Schirnhofner of child abuse and causing the infant's multiple rib fractures, the jury found Schirnhofner not guilty of torturing the infant or of personally inflicting great bodily injury on other parts of the infant's body.

"The verdict reflects the commitment of the jury to perform their civic duty in such a serious case with difficult evidence of horrific injuries to an innocent baby," said Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Susz who prosecuted the case.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig commended the efforts of the Woodland Police Department, Yolo County Child Protective Services, and the University of California Davis Medical Center's Child and Adolescent Resource and Evaluation Diagnostic and Treatment Center for their diligent work in this case. "Our office will continue to vigorously prosecute cases where innocent children like this infant are victimized," said Reisig.

Schirnhofner faces a maximum sentence of 16 years in state prison. The Honorable Timothy L. Fall will sentence Schirnhofner on February 26, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

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