



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Jonathan Raven, Assistant Chief Deputy DA  
(530) 666-8092

**Woodland Man Sentenced for Abusing Infant**

Woodland, CA – February 26, 2010- On February 26, 2010, a Yolo County Superior Court Judge Timothy L. Fall sentenced Richard Andrew Schirnhofner, 19, of Woodland, to the maximum term of sixteen years in state prison for his conviction by jury of four counts of child abuse and inflicting great bodily injury to his girlfriend's infant daughter. At the sentencing hearing, the infant's maternal grandmother and foster mother asked the court to impose the maximum sentence for Schirnhofner. Judge Fall stated at the sentencing hearing that the maximum term of imprisonment for Schirnhofner was justified in this case because separate and distinct acts were committed against the infant, which resulted in separate and distinct injuries.

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 sentenced Carpenter to six years and eight months in state prison. Schirnhofner's case went to jury trial. On January 26, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted Schirnhofner of four counts of child abuse and inflicting great bodily injury on the infant breaking her ribs.

"The maximum sentence was warranted in this case because of the horrific injuries and emotional abuse this innocent baby suffered," said Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Susz who prosecuted the case.

"Our office will continue to vigorously prosecute cases where innocent children like this infant are victimized," said Reisig.

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