



**NEWS RELEASE**

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Contact: Sue Lindsay  
Public Information  
303-835-5639

**Mother Sentenced to Five Years Probation in Drowning Death of Son**

Kayla Erin Barnett (DOB 09/10/90) was sentenced today to five years probation with intensive supervision for child abuse in the drowning death of her 4-year-old son.

Barnett pleaded guilty in October to negligent child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury (F4) in the death of her son, Izaiah Lopez, who drowned in a swimming pool at 4210 E. 100th Ave., Thornton, on June 9, 2013. The boy, who could not swim, was found face down in the lap pool and was not wearing a life vest.

Barnett, of Lafayette, was initially charged with negligent child abuse resulting in death (F3).

Deputy District Attorney Christa Landis said that Barnett was responsible for her son's safety but left him in the pool while she went outside the pool area to smoke, a location where she could not see her son.

Landis said she believed the stipulated sentence to probation was an appropriate one. "Ultimately her worst punishment, I do not doubt, is the loss of her son," Landis said.

District Attorney Dave Young said this was a sad case involving the needless, tragic death of a child. Young said he hoped the case would help bring home the message that parents should never leave a child unattended in a swimming pool or bath tub. "It only takes a few seconds for a child left alone in a pool or tub to drown," he said.

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