



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sue Lindsay
Public Information
303-835-5639

Man Convicted of Child Abuse Causing the Death of his 17-month-old Son

Romon Enders was convicted Friday of child abuse causing the death of his 17-month-old son in 2015.

Paramedics found Jayden Hernandez not breathing and unresponsive at his father's home at 1666 Clinton Street in Aurora on March 21, 2015. He died of catastrophic brain injuries. He also had multiple bruises all over his body and multiple healing rib fractures.

An Adams County District Court jury deliberated less than four hours before convicting Enders (DOB 04/18/87) of one count of knowing and reckless child abuse causing death (F2). An Adams County grand jury indicted him on the charge on October 26, 2015. Enders will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m. May 4 in Division T of Adams County District Court.

Enders gave several different stories to police, contending that other toddlers in the home caused the injury by standing on Jayden. He and his twin sister were spending a few days with their father. Chief Deputy District Attorney Rhoda Pilmer told the jury that his injuries were consistent with those that would be sustained in a high speed car crash or by falling from a multiple story building.

Assistant District Attorney Jess Redman said Jayden's death was caused by blunt force trauma so strong that it caused the tearing of nerves deep in his brain.

"Child abuse happens in private. It happens to kids who can't speak. There are no witnesses," Redman told the jury during closing arguments. "We know children are fragile. We know they can die. We don't want to believe that someone would inflict harm causing the death of a child but it happens."

Redman credited the jury for its work in the case. "These are incredibly difficult cases for juries and it's hard to comprehend the fact that child abuse happens," he said. "We are proud that the jury considered the facts in this difficult case and reached this verdict."

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