



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 3, 2017
Re: Andrew Paffendorf & Alicia Paffendorf
Convictions for Manslaughter & Child Abuse

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Andrew Christopher Paffendorf, age 31, of Modesto pled no contest to voluntary manslaughter on September 27, 2017. Alicia Renee Paffendorf, age 31, of Modesto also entered a no contest plea to felony child abuse. Deputy District Attorney Merrill Hoult handled the case for the People.

In 2008, Andrew and Alicia Paffendorf were married and living with their 16-month-old son, Andrew Paffendorf Jr., in Modesto. On December 2, 2008, the Paffendorfs called 911 after Andrew Paffendorf found his child was unresponsive. The child died about an hour later at the hospital. During an autopsy, a forensic pathologist discovered that the child sustained several injuries including multiple healing rib fractures, trauma to his abdomen, a fractured right femur, and extensive bruising all over his body. The pathologist determined that the child died as a result of blunt force injuries to his abdomen and head.

During an interview with a sheriff's detective, Andrew Paffendorf admitted physically abusing the child several weeks before his death. Alicia Paffendorf also told a detective that she had seen Andrew Paffendorf act abusively toward the baby a few weeks earlier. Alicia Paffendorf admitted knowing that the baby was injured and that she failed to call law enforcement or seek assistance for the child.

This case was delayed for several years due to extensive investigation by both sides and several changes in attorneys. During that time, Andrew Paffendorf retained experts who dispute that the abuse caused the child's death.

On September 27, 2017, Judge Nancy Ashley sentenced Andrew Paffendorf to 11 years in state prison. As part of a negotiated settlement, Andrew Paffendorf agreed to give up over 3½ years of custody credits in order to avoid more serious charges. Voluntary manslaughter is considered a "strike" offense under California's Three Strikes Law. Alicia Paffendorf's case has been referred to the Stanislaus County Probation Department for a report. Alicia Paffendorf's sentencing is scheduled for November 29, 2017 at 8:30 in Department 6.

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