



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Woman sentenced in 7 week-old baby's murder

Mount Clemens, MI - The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office tried and convicted Shantavia Hayden with the second degree murder of her son, A'Mir Griffin, who was starved to death in 2020. Hayden had a two week jury trial in September 2022 and the jury found her guilty of second degree murder in approximately two hours. Today, Hayden was sentenced in the murder.

"It's despicable that a mother would starve her child to death. Justice was served today for little A'Mir," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

On October 11, 2020 Shantavia Hayden brought her son A'Mir to Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. The emergency room physician performed life-saving efforts but the child was already showing signs of rigor mortis. The child had been dead for a few hours when he was brought to the hospital. A'Mir was severely malnourished and died as a result. The investigation showed that neither money nor food was the reason the infant died. Hayden had received 16 cans of food from WIC during A'Mir's life, seven of them three days before he died. She also received \$15,000 in jobless benefits in four months as well as food stamps and cash assistance from the state. During the trial Medical Examiner Leigh Hlavaty testified that A'Mir had not been fed for at least seven days.

Today, Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor's Molly Zappitell and Colleen Worden, who tried the case, argued to have Shantavia Hayden sentenced at the top of the guidelines and succeeded. Hon. James Biernat Jr., sentenced Hayden to 27.5 years-50 years in prison.

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