



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

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District Man Sentenced To More Than Four Years in Prison For Beating Baby Over Three-Month Period, Causing 32 Fractures

WASHINGTON - Christopher Carter, 18, formerly of Washington, D.C. was sentenced today to four years and eight months of incarceration for repeatedly beating his own six-month-old son over a three-month period, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Carter pled guilty in December 2010 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to a charge of first degree cruelty to children. Upon completion of his prison term, he is to be placed on three years of supervised release. He was sentenced by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck.

According to the government's evidence, on November 18, 2010, the victim, a six-month-old boy, was taken by his biological mother to the Family Health and Birthing Center for his six-month check-up. Doctors at the Center called for an ambulance when they saw the child's condition, and the child was rushed by ambulance to Children's National Medical Center.

At the hospital, the baby was treated for numerous injuries, including a skull fracture; a lacerated liver; 24 rib fractures; a punctured lung that was caused by the rib fractures; eight fractures to his arms and legs, and skin injuries to numerous parts of his body. The child was also found to be suffering from malnutrition. The fractures were in various stages of healing, indicating abuse on several occasions.

According to Dr. Tanya Hinds, a child abuse specialist at Children's National Medical Center, the mechanisms causing these injuries were a combination of blunt force trauma, forceful pulling, yanking, bending, and twisting of the limbs; and forceful squeezing or compression of the chest caused the rib fractures. During the plea hearing, Carter admitted that he inflicted these injuries on multiple occasions when he was angry, that he did so by forcefully squeezing the child's abdomen, and by forcefully yanking on the child's arm. He admitted that one time he yanked on the child's arm so forcefully that he heard a snap, which he believed to be the child's arm breaking. He also admitted that he did not seek medical care for the baby, and dissuaded the child's mother from doing so, because he believed that his abuse would be discovered.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Youth Division Detectives Stephanie Garner and Scott Dowling. He also praised the work of Dr. Tanya Hinds of the Child and Adolescent Protection Center of the Children's National Medical Center and Trauma Nurse Brandi Farrell. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amy Zubrensky, who prosecuted the case, and Kelly Higashi, who handled the case at sentencing.

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