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Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: Man Sentenced to 34 Years Prison Child Abuse Death

Jesus Meraz-Cordero, 26, a Mexican national who lived in Arvada, appeared today in Jefferson County District Court and was sentenced to 34 years in prison for the death of his four-year-old stepson. He pled guilty to reckless child abuse resulting in death on January 7.

Prosecutor Steve Jensen asked the court for the maximum, 48 years, partly because of the violence it would have taken to have caused a 3 ½ inch full-depth skull fracture of the four-year-old child. Also, because Meraz-Cordero had previously been convicted of a felony in Adams County after he was arrested for using his wife's Denver Sheriff's Department identification to rob a motorist. In that case he was deported, but does not appear to have remained outside the US for long.

In this case, Meraz-Cordero stayed home and tended the children (victim child and also his one-year-old biological son) since he could not work legally. His wife worked outside the home and took her other son, age 14, with her. While no one knows exactly what transpired in the house that day, the autopsy report and Child Protection Team found that the child's death was non-accidental. District Court Judge Frank Plaut also said that he found this not to be an accident or a momentary slip, but to be a deliberate course of action. Plaut said, "The message to the community is that if adults engage in brutality with children and the children die, there will be severe consequences."

Because this was a crime of violence, Meraz-Cordero can be expected to serve 75% of his sentence. He will then be deported back to Mexico.

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