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For Immediate Release – March 25, 2005

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Public Information
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RE: Matthew Schneider sentenced to 16 years in prison

Matthew Alex Schneider, DOB: 11-8-79, of Lakewood, was sentenced today to 16 years in prison for reckless child abuse resulting in the death of his 29-day-old son, Christopher.

Schneider was caring for the infant on September 17, 2003 when he called 911 because the child was limp and cold. Paramedics rushed the baby first to Swedish Medical Center where he was assessed and treated. He was then airlifted to The Childrens' Hospital. Doctors there found swelling and bleeding of the brain, facial abrasions and two rib fractures. Schneider admitted to police officers that Christopher had been crying and that he was "frustrated and snapped". According to court records, Schneider said that he shook the baby, but just once, and that he never meant to hurt him.

Schneider was found guilty in January following a 17 day jury trial. He faced a mandatory minimum of 16 years in prison, up to 48 years.

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