

Hensley agrees to plead guilty to Class A felony in 2009 child's death

Written by Administrator

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Jason Carl Hensley, 27, the man being held in the October, 2009, death of two-year-old Jacob Matthew Lord, will apparently plead guilty to a Class A felony charge of battery causing death.

The charge carries a 30-year sentence with the possibility of five years of the 30 to be served on probation.

Hensley was arrested two days after the youngster died on October 28, 2009, at Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville, Ky., without regaining consciousness.

The toddler was taken to Scott Memorial Hospital some time early on October 28 by his mother, Shawn Lord, and Hensley, who was the woman's boyfriend. She told Indiana State Police Detective Brian Busick that she had left the child in Hensley's care around 4 p.m. on October 27 at Hensley's apartment in Austin. She said when she returned two hours later, the youngster was lying on the floor and appeared to be asleep.

Some time later, Shawn Lord said she checked the child and could not wake him. After a relative arrived to watch other children in the apartment, the couple took the boy to Scott Memorial. He was transported to Kosair's after doctors determined he had suffered "...severe trauma to his head and swelling to his brain."

Jacob was pronounced dead at 4:25 p.m. on October 28.

Hensley was originally charged with Class A felony murder and Class A felony battery. A third count of neglect of a dependent was later added by Scott County Prosecutor Jason Mount.

In a statement, Hensley reportedly admitted to having struck the child in the head and face.

The plea agreement will allow the murder and neglect counts to be dismissed.

Hensley will be formally sentenced at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 27, in Scott Circuit Court.