



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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JUDGE FINDS TRUE THAT BOY, NOW 12, COMMITTED SECOND-DEGREE MURDER IN KILLING OF FATHER IN RIVERSIDE IN 2011

RIVERSIDE – Today, Jan. 14, 2013, a Riverside County Superior Court judge found true that a boy committed second-degree murder when he shot and killed his father in their Riverside home in May 2011.

Joseph Hall, now 12, was 10 years old when, on May 1, 2011, he shot his father Jeffrey Hall in the head as he slept on a couch.

After the killing, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office filed a petition in juvenile court charging the boy with murder. Joseph Hall could not be tried as an adult because of his age. Because of the murder charge, the boy's name is releasable to the media and the juvenile court trial was open to the public. The trial of Joseph Hall started on Oct. 30, 2012, before Judge Jean P. Leonard. This was a court trial before the judge only and did not involve a jury.

Today, January 14, 2013, Judge Leonard rendered her finding in the case. In juvenile court, there is not a "guilty" or "not guilty," but instead findings of "true" or "not true".

The judge found true that Joseph Hall committed second-degree murder and that the juvenile knew what he did was wrong, pursuant to Penal Code section 26. She also found that the boy personally used a firearm during the commission of the crime.

There now will be a dispositional hearing scheduled for Feb. 15, 2013, to determine placement of the boy. With this true finding, he could remain in custody until his 23rd birthday. That hearing will also be held before Judge Leonard at the Hall of Justice in Riverside.