



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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WOMAN FOUND GUILTY IN THE MURDER OF HER INFANT DAUGHTER WHOSE REMAINS WERE FOUND IN AN ARKANSAS STORAGE UNIT

INDIO – Today, April 8, 2014, a Riverside County jury convicted a woman of second-degree murder in the death of her 2-month-old daughter whose remains were found in an Arkansas storage unit.

Jurors deliberated about an hour before finding Krissy Lynn Werntz, DOB: 9-28-79, of Indiana, guilty of second-degree murder, as she had been charged. Werntz was convicted of the murder of 2-month-old Montana in Desert Hot Springs in 2001.

Werntz faces 15 years to life in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 27, 2014, by Judge Harold Hopp in Dept. 2G at the Larson Justice Center in Indio.

The co-defendant in this case, Jason Michael Hann, DOB: 12-19-74, was convicted by a Riverside County jury and in December 2013 he was sentenced to death for Montana's murder.

In February 2002, the decomposed remains of a baby were found in a storage unit in Arkansas after the unit's contents were sold because Werntz and Hann failed to pay the bill. The purchaser of the unit's contents made the gruesome discovery while cleaning out a plastic container.

An "all-points bulletin" to law enforcement agencies nationwide for Hann and Werntz was issued and both were arrested in April 2002 at a motel in Portland, Maine. Subsequent to the arrests, law enforcement authorities found that the couple's third child, a baby boy about a month old, had life-threatening injuries consistent with child abuse including a dozen rib fractures and retinal hemorrhages. During questioning by police, Hann told them that Montana, whose remains were found in the Arkansas storage unit, died in Desert Hot Springs in 2001. The day after the arrests, police found the remains of another of the couple's children in a storage unit in Arizona. That baby, a boy less than two months old, had been killed in July 1999 in Vermont and his remains kept in a plastic container by the couple for more than a year before they rented the Arizona storage unit in December 2000. In February 2006, Hann entered a "nolo contendere" plea in Vermont and was convicted of second-degree murder for that baby boy's murder and Hann was sentenced to 27 to 30 years in prison. Hann was brought back to Riverside County to be tried for Montana's murder.

Werntz has not been charged in connection with the murder of the boy whose remains were found in the Arizona storage unit.

The case, INF066465, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Lisa DiMaria of the DA's Homicide Unit.