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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: August 8, 2014  
Re: Prison term form child abuse

**For More Information Contact:**

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Randy Mitchell, age 32, of Waterford, was convicted on July 16, 2014 of inflicting upon a child unjustifiable physical pain and mental suffering, and admitted having personally inflicted great bodily injury on Jayda Gray, 5 years of age. Deputy District Attorney Elaine Casillas prosecuted the case for the People.

On December 22, 2006, a deputy from the Sheriff's Office responded to Oak Valley Hospital and was informed that three-month-old Jayda Gray had come into the hospital in full cardiac arrest and had older bruising on her lower back and head, fractured ribs in various stages of healing, and was unable to breathe on her own. She was transported to Valley Children's Hospital in Merced. She was pronounced dead on December 29, 2006. During the three months of Jayda's life, she was in the care of three or more persons including Mitchell, Jayda's mother and Jayda's relatives. In early December, Jayda's mother noticed a clicking noise with Jayda's ribs and took her to a doctor who advised, without x-ray, that it was a problem with Jayda's cartilage. Mitchell admitted that on December 22, 2006, he did shake Jayda two to three times, placed her into the bassinet quickly face down, and started pushing on her back which stopped her crying. He went out of the room and when he came back in he noticed Jayda wasn't breathing. He told the detective, "I didn't think anything this drastic would happen".

Upon entry of the guilty plea, Judge Ricardo Cordova sentenced Mitchell to 12 years in state prison.

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