

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Man sentenced to fifteen years-to-life for killing infant**

(Akron, May 12, 2011) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that John Jones, 18, of Akron, was sentenced to fifteen years to life in prison by Judge Patricia Cosgrove after being found guilty of causing the death of his six month old daughter, Jada.

Jones was found guilty by a jury of Murder and Child Endangering, a felony of the second degree, on Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

Walsh said, "This case is tragic, as are all shaken baby cases. It is unfortunate that Jada's father, the defendant in this case, did not take responsibility for what happened. Instead, he put Deja and her family through a trial and actually pointed the finger at Deja. I hope that Deja and the children can move forward as best they can from here."

On the morning of March 19, 2010 the defendant violently shook his baby, Jada, causing irreversible brain trauma. The baby was placed on life support for four months. Jones fought Jada being removed from life support until Probate Judge Bill Spicer made the decision to terminate the support based upon Jada's severe brain injuries. Jada died July 16, 2010.

Deja Ruiz, 18 at the time, and John Jones, 17 at the time, were the parents of three children, a two-year old male and six-month old twin girls, Jazmine and Jada. Deja Ruiz and John were the only caretakers of the children.

At trial Jones's defense was to claim that Jada's mother, Deja, had caused the injuries that killed Jada. On the morning of March 19, Deja left to go to school and John was watching the children. Expert testimony at trial revealed that Jada had died of Shaken Baby Syndrome that occurred after the mother, Deja, left for school. Both parents reported that John had given Jada a bottle after Deja left. Doctor's testified that the baby would not have had the ability to drink a bottle, much less to swallow, with that level of brain injury unless the shaking had occurred after her bottle feeding; thereby excluding Deja as the perpetrator. In addition, Jones was given a polygraph test and failed.