

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

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### **Trio Sentenced in Death of Patrick Lerch**

(September 25, 2012... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Judge Thomas Parker sentenced Heather Lerch, 21, of St. Leger Avenue in Akron, Ronald Legg, 22, of Akron and Allen Kostra, 25, of Akron, for their roles in the death of 17-month-old Patrick Lerch.

Heather Lerch was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after 22 years. Ronald Legg was sentenced to life in prison with parole eligibility after 27 years. Kostra was sentenced to nine years in prison.

Patrick died February 26 after ingesting large amounts of methamphetamine. Heather Lerch and her son Patrick moved into the home of Heather's boyfriend, Randy Legg, on St. Leger Avenue just days before Patrick died. Patrick was kept in the home's rat-infested basement in the care of Ronald Legg and Allen Kostra, who were cooking and high on meth throughout Patrick's last days.

"The monstrous actions of these three individuals are incomprehensible. They sat back and did nothing while an innocent child suffered," said Prosecutor Walsh.

Kostra pleaded guilty on August 16 to Involuntary Manslaughter, Child Endangering and Illegal Manufacture of Drugs. A jury found Heather guilty of Murder, Involuntary Manslaughter and Child Endangering on August 27. On September 21, Ronald Legg pleaded guilty to Murder, Child Endangering and Illegal Manufacturing of Drugs. Randy Legg, 20, of St. Leger Avenue in Akron, pleaded guilty on September 21 to Involuntary Manslaughter and Illegal Possession of Chemicals to Manufacture Drugs.

Judge Parker will sentence Randy Legg on October 23 at 9:00 a.m.