



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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FATHER CONVICTED OF BEATING 21-MONTH-OLD BABY TO DEATH

INDIO, CA: Today, July 20, 2010, a Riverside County jury convicted Raul Galvez Jr. of murder for beating his 21-month-old baby daughter, Yazlin, to death on January 6, 2006. The jury also found him guilty of felony child abuse causing death.

Galvez, DOB: 12/06/81, dropped off Yazlin's mother at work and was watching Yazlin and her 3-year-old sister for about four hours before he rushed her to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital because she was unconscious and had stopped breathing. She was subsequently transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center where she was pronounced dead five days later on January 11, 2006.

A Loma Linda University Medical Center doctor said that Yazlin suffered bruises on her arms consistent with being grabbed and bruising on her chest and abdomen were consistent with knuckle marks from being assaulted with closed fists. There was bruising on the victim's ears, neck, forehead, both cheeks, eyes, and she had marks consistent with being hit by a belt. A doctor testified that the trauma suffered to the baby would be equivalent to being involved in a major traffic collision. The defendant claimed that Yazlin must have received the injuries from playing with her sister.

The case, INF053059, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Kristi Belcher of the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit.

"Baby Yazlin deserved the opportunity to learn and play and live a full life," said Belcher. "I am very thankful to know that this defendant will be spending a lifetime in prison where he will never be able to harm another innocent person or child."

Galvez faces up to 25 years to life in prison when he is sentenced on September 10, 2010, in Dept. 1B of the Indio Courthouse.

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