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NASHUA

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Father gets 30 years in death of his child

Man served time for shaking first son

The Associated Press

NASHUA - Barry Linde pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder in the shaking death of his 2-month-old boy and was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison.

Linde was convicted in 1992 of violently shaking another 2-month-old son, Jacob, causing permanent brain injury. He served about six years in prison for the 1991 assault and an unrelated kidnapping and attempted sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl in 1992.

In Monday's sentencing, he was accused of shaking his son, Christopher, in early July, causing severe neurological damage. "I was hoping he would stay in prison forever," said Kathy Williams, Christopher's grandmother.

She read a statement from Linde's wife, Reginee, in Hillsborough County Superior Court.

"I wish I had never met you," Reginee Linde said in the state-

ment. She also wrote, "I truly hate you for what you've done."

The plea bargain was fair, said Mark Sisti, Linde's lawyer. "Cases like this are an absolute tragedy," he said. "I think Barry wanted to lessen the impact as much as he could," Sisti said of the guilty plea.

According to prosecutors, Linde, 36, of Nashua, brought Christopher to Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in July after calling his wife at work and saying their son was limp and not breathing.

The baby was taken to Children's Hospital in Boston, where he died 21 days later, after being in a coma and on a respirator, Senior Assistant Attorney General Simon Brown said.

Doctors determined that the child had suffered severe shaken baby syndrome, a term used to describe signs and symptoms typically present in babies who have been shaken violently.

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Linde brought Christopher to Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua July 9 for treatment of serious injuries. The infant died three weeks later at Boston Children's Hospital.

Linde's sentence is the second most severe in a New Hampshire child homicide case since at least 1989, Brown said. In 1994, Nashua resident James Matchett pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and first-degree assault charges involving a 14-month old and was sentenced to 33 to 66 years in jail.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Simon Brown said the severity of Linde's sentence can be attributed in part to Linde's 1992 conviction for a similar crime. Linde pleaded guilty that year to shaking his son, Jacob, who was two months old at the time.

Jacob survived, but suffered serious injuries, his mother has said.

Linde, who has been held in the state prison since last summer, will not be eligible for parole until 2034, by which time he will be 66 years old.

— Scott Brooks,
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