

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brittney B. Lewton



13TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Counties of Kit Carson, Logan,
Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick,
Washington & Yuma

******* PRESS RELEASE *******



Aspen Bryant
December 22, 2015 – April 1, 2017

On Thursday, April 26, 2018, Soren Olsen was sentenced to serve a 26 year term in the Colorado Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to Attempted Murder in the First Degree in relation to the killing of 15 month old Aspen Bryant on March 29, 2017 in Wray,

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Colorado. Soren Olsen was arrested, charged and successfully prosecuted following a thorough and extensive investigation conducted by the Wray Police Department, Yuma County Sheriff's Office, and the Office of the District Attorney for the 13th Judicial District.

The investigation revealed that Soren Olsen had recently begun dating Heather Bryant, the mother of Aspen, and had recently and temporarily relocated to Wray, Colorado. On March 29, 2017, Ms. Bryant was suffering from a migraine and Mr. Olsen volunteered to take the child to the NAPA auto parts store in Wray, Colorado where he worked. No one else was present in the NAPA store that evening. At some point, Mr. Olsen brought the non-responsive child to the Wray Hospital. While at the hospital, Mr. Olsen remarked to law enforcement that he "shook the [expletive]" out of the child and that the officer "should just take me to jail now and lock me up." Mr. Olsen would later reveal to law enforcement that he shook Aspen five to nine times, demonstrating that a forward and backwards motion represented one shake. As a result of the injuries inflicted by Mr. Olsen, Aspen Bryant was pronounced dead at 9:52 PM on April 1, 2017. Her loving mother, Heather, was present by her side as Aspen passed from this world.

An autopsy would later reveal that Aspen was the victim of non-accidental trauma and suffered subdural hemorrhages, subarachnoid hemorrhages and hemorrhages around the optic nerve. The pathologist who examined Aspen indicated that the injuries sustained by Aspen were consistent with impact shaken baby syndrome and consistent with homicide.

The case was prosecuted by District Attorney Brittney Lewton, who had been involved in the case and its investigation from the moment Aspen arrived at the hospital through the moment

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Mr. Olsen was escorted out of the courtroom on his way to the Department of Corrections. “Crimes against children are the absolute worst and the prosecution of these crimes is always personal,” said District Attorney Lewton, “and there is no amount of time anyone can be sentenced to that will ever be enough for taking the life of a child.” District Attorney Lewton went on to describe the last moments experienced by Aspen as those of immense fear, confusion, and devastation that the mother she loved the most in this world was not there to comfort her. “Heather [Bryant] is one of the strongest women I’ve ever met,” Lewton remarked at the sentencing hearing, “she loved her child beyond measure and would give anything to have her back.”

Before Ms. Bryant spoke at the sentencing hearing, a slideshow of pictures and videos of the beautiful child during her short life was shown to the court. Ms. Bryant made a heartfelt and devastating statement to the court asking for justice, but wanting nothing more than to hold her sweet Aspen in her arms once more. Aspen’s final gift to this world was through the donation of her kidneys.