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People v. Matthew Norwood and Brittney Collins, MF013183AB

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide conviction today. Matthew Norwood and Brittney Collins were both convicted for the murder of their 2-month-old son. Matthew Norwood was convicted by a jury of Second-Degree Murder and Assault on a Child Causing Death. He faces 25 years to life in the California Department of Corrections. Brittney Collins was convicted of Second-Degree Murder and faces 15 years to life in the California Department of Corrections.

On October 17, 2018 medical personnel responded to Willow Springs mobile home park in Tehachapi, California. They located a 2-month-old infant in severe medical distress. The infant was transported by ambulance to Kern Medical Center and later to Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, California. Treating physicians found the infant had suffered a displaced fractured skull and leg. Subsequent medical care located retinal hemorrhaging, fractured ribs, and a fracture to the wrist. The infant succumbed to his injuries 7 days later. The Kern County Sheriff Department investigated the homicide. During their investigation, detectives determined the father, Matthew Norwood, was the perpetrator of the horrific injuries. He was arrested and charged with murder. During Brittney Collins interview, she informed detectives she had observed Matthew Norwood squeeze, shake, and choke their son in the weeks prior to the fatal injury. Brittney Collins was charged with murder based upon her failure to act to stop her boyfriend's abuse of their son.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated "The death of a child is one of the most terrible things that a family or community can experience. It is made all the worse when the death comes at the hands of the child's own parents. Criminals like Matthew Norwood and Brittney Collins will always face justice in Kern County."

Matthew Norwood and Brittney Collins are scheduled to be sentenced on November 18, 2020.