

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

February 28, 2012

Piedmont Man Sentenced on Involuntary Manslaughter

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that on February 27, 2012 KEVIN BRIAN ADAMS, 39, pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter for causing the death of seven month old Braydon Alexander O'Dell. Circuit Judge Letitia Verdin sentenced Adams to five years in prison and suspended the active part of that sentence on the 609 days Adams served awaiting disposition of the case. She placed him on probation for five years.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Judy Munson established that on May 20, 2010 emergency personnel were called by Adams to the Easley home where Braydon lived with his mother, Holli Hawkins. On their arrival they found Adams on the front porch of the home attempting to perform CPR on the child. Braydon O'Dell was pronounced dead on May 23, 2010. An autopsy showed that the child died from non accidental head trauma, most likely the result of being violently shaken. Adams was charged with Homicide by Child Abuse after admitting to law enforcement that he had shaken Braydon. He told investigators that he believed the child was choking and shook him in an effort to remove what may have been lodged in the child's throat. Prosecutors explained to the Court that there was not sufficient evidence to show that Adams acted maliciously at the time he harmed the baby. Braydon's mother, father and paternal grandmother addressed the Court during the proceeding and told Judge Verdin that Adams had never shown any signs of being dangerous to the child.