

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Telephone: 864-467-8647
Telefax: 864-467-8610



Greenville County Courthouse
305 E. North Street, Suite 325
Greenville, SC 29601-2185

Solicitor
W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

July 30, 2012

**Pickens Grandmother Found Guilty of Homicide By Child Abuse/Neglect and
Pickens Father Found Guilty of Aiding And Abetting Homicide by Child
Abuse/Neglect**

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that on July 27, 2012 a Pickens County jury convicted DONNA LYNN PHILLIPS, 55, of Homicide by Child Abuse/Neglect and JAMIE EDWARD MORRIS, 28, of Aiding and Abetting Homicide By Child Abuse/Neglect. PHILLIPS was sentenced by presiding Judge D. Garrison Hill to twenty-five years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections. She will have to serve at least 85% of that sentence before becoming eligible for parole. MORRIS was sentenced by Judge Hill to twelve years suspended to eight years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections to be followed by two years of probation. He will have to serve at least 85% of the eight year sentence before he becomes eligible for parole. In addition, PHILLIPS was charged with two counts of Contempt of Court and was given an additional six month sentence, to be served before her Homicide by Child Abuse/Neglect sentence.

Evidence presented at the trial by Assistant Solicitors Doug Richardson and Jenny Barwick established that between the dates of March 14, 2008 and March 17, 2008, DONNA LYNN PHILLIPS and JAMIE EDWARD MORRIS administered a lethal dose of Tussionex, which contained Hydrocodone and Chlorpheniramine, to the then twenty-one month old Jaidon Edward Morris. In addition, PHILLIPS and MORRIS failed to get critical medical attention for the child after he became

symptomatic of the Hydrocodone overdose and, instead, dropped him off at his mother's residence. The investigating officer was Rita Burgess with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office.