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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
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**Jury Finds Parents, Sullins and Saffell, Guilty of the Death of One-Year-Old Daughter**  
*People V. Sullins and Saffell: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191181AB*

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury verdict in the murder of a one-year-old Lake Isabella child. On October 18, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Nick Lackie, a Kern County jury convicted Jeffrey Sullins of the murder of his one-year-old daughter, as well as of assault on a child causing death, and willful cruelty to a child under circumstances likely to produce great bodily injury or death. The jury also found Ashley Saffell, the victim's mother, guilty of involuntary manslaughter and willful cruelty to a child under circumstances likely to produce great bodily injury or death.

On January 29, 2022, Saffell found the victim, one-year-old KaraMarie, unresponsive and cold in her crib. She called 911 and first responders immediately pronounced the girl deceased. Saffell told Sheriff's deputies that there was a flatscreen television on the victim's body when she found her. There were severe bruises covering her entire body, from her head to the bottom of her feet. During the autopsy it was found that she had multiple severe brain injuries, which caused her death, as well as lethal neck compression. The forensic pathologist opined that the injuries occurred over a period of time extending at least two to three days, and possibly longer, as well as that the television could not have caused the injuries.

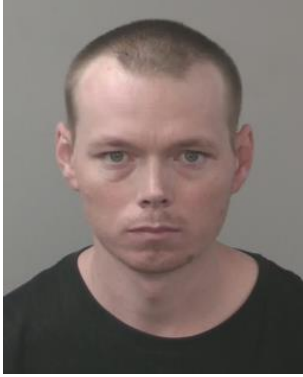
Sullins had been KaraMarie's primary caretaker for several weeks, during which time she sustained several injuries, including having a tooth knocked out. Although another adult noticed the tooth and urged Sullins and Saffell to seek medical attention, they never did so. The victim also lost a significant portion of her body weight during this time. Saffell testified at trial that she did not notice the weight loss because she did not hold the girl for a month prior to her death. Sullins was home alone with the victim the entire day on January 28, 2022, while Saffell was at work. When she arrived home, Sullins told her the victim was asleep.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "An innocent child fell victim to two heartless monsters who were supposed to be her protectors. Children are among the most vulnerable victims in our county

and although her life was tragically cut short, justice will prevail as her killers face the full consequences of their despicable crimes.”

Sentencing is scheduled for November 8, 2023, in Department 7. Sullins faces a sentence of 25 years to life, and Ashley Saffell faces a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.

Jeffrey Sullins:



Ashley Saffell:

