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Board of Parole Hearings Grants Release of Baby Killer Kyle Lawson
CDC #V08740; Court Case number BF102472A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) decided to release Kyle Lawson.

On November 15, 2023, a panel of the Board of Parole Hearings presided over by Commissioner Michael Ruff granted parole to Kyle Lawson, age 39. This was Lawson's third parole hearing. Lawson is currently serving a sentence of 15 years to Life for the Second-Degree Murder of 3-month-old Katelynn Gonzalez, the daughter of his then romantic partner. Lawson beat Katelynn to death on May 6, 2003, in Rosamond, by punching her in the head repeatedly with his fist, causing multiple fractures and "shattering" her skull after the infant's mother left the child alone with Lawson for half an hour. Lawson and the child's mother had lived together for one month.

In her report of Lawson's most recent psychological evaluation, Dr. Wendy Chan noted that Lawson acted violently in relationships where the other person was either physically or emotionally vulnerable. The psychologist also commented; "His history of dishonesty and manipulative behavior further muddies the waters in discerning whether he has made actual lasting changes or whether he has learned to parrot back what he has been told in his prior hearing and evaluation."

In the course of the parole hearing, Lawson admitted that he had used and trafficked drugs in prison but had never been caught. He also admitted that around the time that he murdered Kaitlynn, he had also intentionally physically abused the victim's sibling, who was two-years old at the time. Although that child suffered a minor injury, the abuse was never detected. Katelynn's mother, aunt and cousin attended the hearing and all made emotional pleas to the commissioners opposing the grant of parole.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Child murders are undoubtedly some of the most heinous crimes in our society. It's disheartening to see that after just 20 years, Lawson will walk free, while a family is left to grieve for a lifetime.”

Kyle Lawson's 2003 mugshot:

