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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sarah Styhl Receives Maximum Sentence of 40 years
For Conviction of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death**

Muncie Indiana – This morning, the Honorable Linda Ralu Wolf, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3 imposed the maximum sentence of 40 years in prison upon Sara Styhl. On July 6, 2020, Sarah Styhl pled guilty as charged to Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. The charge was not reduced nor did the State agree to place any sentencing limitations on the court. During the sentencing hearing, Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman argued for the 40 year maximum sentence based on the nature of the offense and the character of the offender. During the hearing, Prosecutor Hoffman said that in 17 years of prosecution, he could not “recall a single case where the injuries were as extensive, pervasive, and severe as in this case.” The cause of infant’s death was found by a forensic pathologist to be “burns/scalding injuries about the body” with contributory factors of “remote/healing and acute bony injuries.” The child’s broken bones were found to be in various stages of healing.



During the sentencing hearing, Judge Wolf stated that:

- “A parent has no greater responsibility than to protect their children.” The crime was “heinous and disturbing.”
- “The nature and extent of the injures are truly shocking.”
- “The Defendant “completely and willfully failed to protect her baby in every single way.”

After the hearing Prosecutor Hoffman said that:

This helpless innocent 3 month old child had over 40 injuries – including broken bones in various stages of healing and burns virtually all over her body. It is very troubling that to this day, the Defendant will not tell us how those injuries were inflicted. Instead she chooses to lie and say she suffers from blackouts. That is nothing but a cop out. Sadly, we will never know what really happened to this innocent baby. Sarah Styhl has no conscience and

is morally bankrupt. The only comforting thought that came out of today is that she was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Based on her age, we can rest assured that she will never have another child to abuse and neglect.

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