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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Britni Wihebrink Receives 30 year sentence
For Conviction of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death**

Muncie Indiana - Today, the Honorable John Feick, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 4 imposed a sentence of 30 years in prison upon Britnin Wihebrink. On June 3, 2020, Whiebrink (dob 11/6/1989) pled guilty as charged to Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. During the Change of Plea Hearing, Wihebrink admitted that on September 5, 2018 she was drinking to the point of intoxication at her Daleville Indiana apartment. According to her blood toxicology, she had a BAC of .155. As a result, at some point that afternoon she fell asleep in the apartment. Her two (2) year old son J.S. was able to leave the apartment and entered Wihebrink's car which was parked in the parking lot. He closed himself in the passenger compartment of the car and eventually passed out. He was found later and pronounced dead. An autopsy revealed that the cause of J.S.'s death was "hyperthermia with a contributing cause of elevated temperature in an enclosed space." Wihebrink admitted that she was guilty of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death in that she placed J.S. in a situation that endangered his life or health which resulted in the death of J.S.



During the sentencing hearing, Prosecuting Attorney Eric Hoffman noted that there are not many facts in dispute in the case. Hoffman stated that:

The Defendant chose to get drunk - so drunk that she passed out. She left her 2 year old son to fend for himself. He put his rain boots on and like most 2 year olds, on the wrong feet, and somehow and for some reason got into the back seat of the Defendant's car - sealing his fate. He couldn't get out and died from the heat.

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I can't imagine what that feels like - I assume you just pass out at some point. I can't imagine what a 2 year old would have thought as

he inched toward death - what went through his mind - he panic and confusion.

In arguing for a sentence of 30 years, Hoffman noted that the Defendant placed her "selfish desire to get drunk over the life and wellbeing of her own 2 year old son. A parent has no greater duty than to protect their children from harm." After the hearing, Hoffman said:

prison is the only appropriate place for a parent who so miserably fails their child that the child dies as a result. This has been a rough week. This is the second sentencing hearing this week involving neglect of a dependent resulting in death. I cannot recall a time when such a thing has happened. My heart breaks for these innocent children who needlessly die at such a young age due to the negligence or cruelty of their parents. It is truly an indescribable tragedy.

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