



## *Office of Genesee County Prosecutor*

David Leyton

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **JURY CONVICTS FLINT MAN OF FIRST-DEGREE CHILD ABUSE**

### ***Two-Year-Old Boy Suffered Numerous Fractures and Other Injuries***

**FLINT, MI** – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said his office secured a guilty verdict against a Flint man who was charged with severely abusing a two-year-old boy in early 2015.

Joshua Robert Demott, 45, was convicted of first-degree child abuse and first-degree child abuse in the presence of another child for the beatings and other abuse of the child who had been living with Demott after the boy's mother moved into Demott's home in January 2015. The boy's two older sisters, ages 11 and 14, were also living in the home at the time.

Testimony from trial indicated that authorities were contacted in March, 2015 by a neighbor of Demott's who reported the suspected child abuse. When the boy was eventually taken to Hurley Medical Center following the reports of the abuse, doctors discovered he had suffered fractures to his clavicle, arm, shoulder blade and sternum that were at least a month old. The boy also had bruises on his face, arms and legs.

After one toilet-training incident, Demott rubbed the two-year-old's face into urine-stained carpet which left rug burns on the boy's face and smeared Icy Hot balm on his groin.

Further evidence indicated that the children were forced to wear coats inside the home because there was no heat and the children often went hungry because of a lack of food.

A court order removing the two -year-old boy and his sisters from their mother's custody was entered last year following the filing of a petition in Genesee Juvenile Court by Child Protective Services after the reported incidents.

Testimony indicated that Demott began abusing the two-year-old boy after the boy, his sisters and their 37-year-old mother moved in to Demott's home on the south side of Flint in late January, 2015.

“Unfortunately, I have had to prosecute many child abuse cases in my tenure as Prosecutor and they are all terrible crimes but, this case ranks right up there with some of the worst,” said Prosecutor David Leyton. “I am pleased that Joshua Demott has been found guilty and, I hope the children in this case can recover from the physical and emotional torment that they have experienced,” he said.

Demott will be sentenced on April 12, 2016 at 8:30AM in Genesee County Circuit Court.

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