

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Andre Hampton sentenced to life without parole for murder of his young son

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, Andre Earl Hampton, 27, was sentenced to *life in prison without the possibility of parole* for the 2008 murder of his 23-month-old son, Elijah Burger. The trial began February 11, 2013, in Mecklenburg County Superior Court before The Honorable Forrest D. Bridges, Superior Court Judge.

Hampton was tried for 1) first-degree murder based on murder by torture and the felony murder rule and 2) two counts of felony child abuse inflicting serious injury. On March 6, 2013, the jury returned a verdict of *guilty as charged*.

Following the guilty verdict, the trial entered a sentencing phase in which the jurors had to decide whether Hampton should be sentenced to death or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Today, the jury determined that Hampton should receive a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The injuries that led to Elijah's death occurred over a two-day period. Hampton began abusing Elijah on November 10, 2008, by beating him with a hairbrush when Elijah wouldn't eat his soup. The following morning, Hampton began repeatedly striking Elijah's hands and feet with a toothbrush. That evening, Hampton repeatedly whipped Elijah with a belt as the boy tried to crawl away – all while Elijah's 6-year-old sister watched helplessly.

The beatings left Elijah's body covered in bruises from his head to the bottom of his feet. His cause of death was identified as multiple blunt force trauma, which caused brain swelling.

In an interview with a Charlotte-Mecklenburg police detective, Hampton admitted to beating his son. During the trial, Hampton testified that he held a pillow over Elijah while he hit him so that neighbors wouldn't hear the child's cries.

“Taking a life – especially taking the life of a child as young and innocent as Elijah – is perhaps the most serious crime that could ever come before our courts,” says Mecklenburg County District Attorney Andrew Murray. “We respect the decision of the jury, which is made up of people who represent our community. A sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole is justice for Elijah.”



Andre Earl Hampton

The outcome of this case comes just as the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office joins other local agencies to raise awareness and educate the public during Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month in April. For more information about the local campaign, visit www.facebook.com/MecklenburgChildAbuseAwareness.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA

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