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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Man Sentenced for Murder of 2-Year-Old

State v. Ryan St. John, 2017-CR-484

DAYTON, OH (05/01/2018) – Prosecuting Attorney Mat Heck, Jr. announced today that **RYAN LUCAS ST. JOHN**, 23, of Dayton, was sentenced to a total of 18 years-to-life for causing the death of his girlfriend’s 2-year-old son, Brayden Ferguson, who died on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

On Monday, February 13, 2017, the defendant was watching the toddler inside their home while the mother was out. The defendant told the child’s mother that the child had thrown up, and when the mother came home and checked on the child he was sleeping. A while later when she checked on him again, the child was not breathing. Medics rushed the child to Dayton Children’s Hospital. The next day, the decision was made to remove the child from a ventilator.

The coroner determined the child died from severe blunt force trauma, causing a skull fracture, bleeding of his brain, and other injuries.

On April 6, 2018, after a trial, the jury found the defendant guilty as charged on all counts, including:

- Two counts of Murder
- Two counts of Endangering Children
- One count of Involuntary Manslaughter
- One count of Felonious Assault

Today, the defendant was sentenced to the maximum, consecutive total of 18 years-to-life in prison.

Prosecutor Heck continued, “This is a terrible, tragic case, in which a two-year-old toddler died from injuries he sustained at the hands of his mother’s boyfriend. This defendant received an appropriate sentence and should spend the rest of his life in prison.”

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