



Court documents: Mother of Dominick Calhoun left home in midst of beatings that killed her son, did not alert people to abuse

By Laura Angus | Flint Journal

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ARGENTINE TOWNSHIP, Michigan — In the midst of the four days of alleged torture that killed her son, Dominick Calhoun's mother walked out of the house and left the trouble there behind, according to court records.

Her parents picked Dominick's mother up for a doctor's appointment that Friday — April 9, the day after police say the abuse of 4-year-old Dominick began.



Courtesy

Dominick Calhoun, 4, died Monday after police found him severely beaten Sunday in his Argentine Township home.

She went and returned.

And, never notified anyone of the alleged abuse going on behind closed doors, according to a petition filed by the Department of Human Services.

The 25-year-old woman has not been charged with a crime in Dominick's death, though officials this week said the investigation is ongoing.

Police say Brandon J.F. Hayes, 24, beat Dominick about the head, kicked him the groin and poked him in the eyes repeatedly for days after the boy wet himself in the morning on April 8 and soiled the couch. He was charged with eight felonies Thursday including torture, first-degree child abuse and first-degree premeditated murder.

The mother "did not report that anything was wrong between herself, children or (her boyfriend)," the petition said.

Dominick was found unconscious April 11 in his Argentine Township apartment and was removed from life support the next day after he was declared brain dead.

Dominick's older half-brother was removed from their mother's care when Dominick was discovered. The brother was not injured during the beatings and has been placed in protective care.

The state filed paperwork the same day to terminate the mother's parental rights for her older son.

Court documents also indicate that Dominick suffered burns to the genitals and showed signs he was sexually assaulted. Argentine Township police Chief Dan Allen said it originally appeared that Dominick had been sexually assaulted, but the investigation showed he had not.

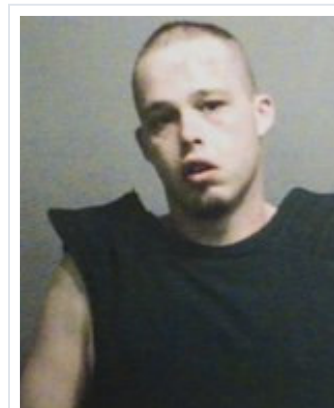
"Thank God, really," said Allen. "He went through enough."

Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said the criminal investigation is ongoing as it relates to the allegations of sexual abuse and the mother failing to protect Dominick.

"I have to have legitimate probable cause before I issue charges against anybody," said Leyton.

The mother was ordered not to contact her other son or attend Dominick's funeral, according to court documents.

Teresa Holfield, a lawyer from the Child Advocacy Team appointed to represent Dominick's brother in the trial, said information is still being gathered into what occurred during the alleged beatings, and declined to comment further



Brandon Joshua-Frederick Hayes

about the case.

A pre-trial date is scheduled for May and the mother requested a court-appointed attorney. One was not on file Friday morning.

Candy Mattson, director of the domestic violence and sexual assault program at the YWCA in Flint, declined to speak specifically on this case but said victims of domestic violence could be threatened before they leave home, preventing them from speaking out.

"They think nobody can help them," she said. "(Perpetrators) become larger than life to them and they don't think they can get away alive."

She urged victims of domestic violence to call the YWCA crisis line at (810) 238-SAFE (7233).

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