



Maricopa County Attorney

ANDREW P. THOMAS

301 W. JEFFERSON, SUITE 800
PHOENIX, AZ 85003
www.maricopacountyattorney.org

PH. (602) 506-3411
TDD (602) 506-4352
FAX (602) 506-8102

News Release

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For more information contact:

Mike Anthony Scerbo, Public Information Officer
(602) 506-3170 (office) or (602) 489-6913 (cell)

Father pleads guilty in horrible case of child abuse *Defendant allowed his daughter to slowly die after she had been beaten*

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that Jeffery Duchane (DOB 1/20/73) has pleaded guilty to First Degree Murder and Child Abuse in connection with the beating death of his 12-year-old daughter Trenay Duchane

According to the probable cause statement filed by Phoenix Police, officers were called to the Phoenix home November 10, 2007 and found the body of Trenay Duchane on a bedroom floor. Police believe she had been dead for several days. Police also found the victim's sister cowering in a shower with burns, bruises and a broken arm. According to the statement, the nine-year-old told police she saw her step mother scald and beat Trenay to death.

The probable cause statement goes on to say that Jeffery Duchane was contacted by the step mother, Reiko Troupe (DOB 07/29/82), on November 6, 2007. He came home to find Trenay non-responsive but alive on the bedroom floor of the apartment. He did not call for medical help. Instead he had dinner and went to bed. Duchane told police he knew his daughter had later died. Instead of immediately calling police he went to work, leaving the body in the apartment. Also in the apartment was Trenay's terrified nine-year-old sister.

On April 14, 2009 Duchane pleaded guilty to First degree Murder and Child Abuse. The County Attorney's Office is seeking natural life in prison with no possibility of parole when Duchane is sentenced on July 31, 2009.

On March 13, 2009 Troupe was sentenced to natural life in prison for the beating death of Trenay Duchane and the abuse of the victim's nine-year-old sister. The sentence guarantees that the defendant will never set foot outside of prison.

Family Violence Bureau Chief Suzanne Cohen is prosecuting the case.

Thomas stated, "These guilty pleas will hopefully honor the memory of Trenay. We felt it was important not only to hold the step-mother accountable but also the father, who let his daughter slowly die of her injuries."

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