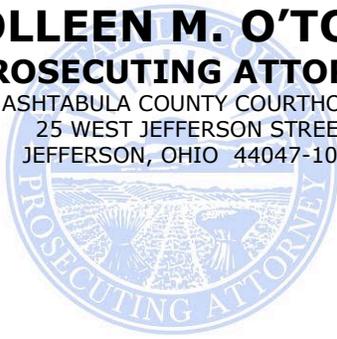


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PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

Contact: Prosecutor Colleen O'Toole
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Today, a stipulated Plea and Sentencing Agreement was reached between, Ashtabula County Prosecutor, Colleen M. O'Toole and counsel for Kelsie Marie Blankenship under Case No. 2018 CR 664.

Ms. Blankenship plead to the charge of Involuntary Manslaughter (ORC §2903.04(A)(C) a Felony of the 1st Degree & Child Endangerment (ORC §2919.22(A)(E)(2)(c)-a Felony of the 3rd Degree with a stipulated six (6) year prison sentence for her role in the tragic and violent death of her child, 13 month old Sereniti Jazzlynn-Sky Sutley.

Ms. Blankenship was originally indicted after her co-Defendant, Joshua Gurto, who is awaiting trial for the tragic death of Ms. Blankenship's 13 month old daughter, Sereniti. Ms. Blankenship has been in custody of the Ashtabula County Sherriff's Department since her arrest on October 19, 2018.

The death of this child was a tragedy for not only the family, but for the community as a whole.

My sadness and condolences goes out to all those effected by this tragic death. The conviction and sentencing of Ms. Blankenship provides a step toward the finality and closure needed for the family.

The Plea and Sentence in this matter accurately reflects the evidence which would be produced at trial against Ms. Blankenship as well as the understanding and consent of law enforcement and the family.

I'd like to thank all local and state law enforcement agencies involved. If it was not for them and their exceptional and rigorous investigation work on this case, there would be no justice for Sereniti.

To some, this Stipulated Plea Agreement for a six (6) year sentence may seem too little for the loss of the life of a child. This Agreement accurately describes Ms. Blankenship's role in this death as proven by the evidence but also allows Ms. Blankenship to admit and accept her accountability and allows the family and victims to heal and move forward. Finality is necessary for the family and the victims in this matter and society. Nothing we can do will bring this beautiful, innocent child back to us.

Thank you very much.