



NEWS RELEASE  
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Unlicensed Daycare Provider Convicted of Manslaughter of Child in her Care

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Deborah K. Lundstrom, 49, of Springfield, MO was convicted on February 28, 2024, of involuntary manslaughter by a Greene County Jury in the death of eight-month-old, Coleman Shirley, in 2022. It took a jury two hours to find a Springfield unlicensed child care provider guilty of first-degree involuntary manslaughter for the 2022 death of an 8-month-old boy left in her care. Lundstrom was also found guilty first-degree endangering the welfare of a child — death of a child; eight counts of first-degree endangering the welfare of a child creating substantial risk; and operating a child-care facility without a license. Lundstrom was caring for children in her home on the 2800 block of North Washington Avenue in Springfield on March 2, 2022. The evidence showed she was caring for nine children under the age of 3 when she left them in her home for about 12 minutes. According to evidence presented at the trial, Lundstrom placed 8-month-old Coleman Shirley in a car seat. When Lundstrom returned from picking up her son from school, she discovered the baby was not breathing and called 911.

Dr. Deiter Duff, the Greene County Medical Examiner, testified the baby's cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation caused by the car seat's buckle and strap. Duff testified in detail about the marks on the baby's neck that matched the car seat's buckle and strap.

The jury trial was presided over by The Honorable T. Myers. **This case was prosecuted by First Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Elizabeth Kiesewetter Fax and Philip Fuhrman. It was investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective Jason Marcum was the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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