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Jeffrey Fairbanks sentenced to 30 years for the death and disappearance of infant daughter

(Indianapolis, Ind.) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that Jeffrey Fairbanks has been sentenced to 30 years in the Indiana Department of Correction for the death and disappearance of his infant daughter Janna. Fairbanks was found guilty of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death (Level 1 Felony) by a jury in April.

“Although Janna’s body has never been recovered, we commend the many hours devoted by investigators in the extensive search for Janna and the perseverance of our deputy prosecutors in obtaining a conviction in this exceedingly difficult case,” Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry stated. “With this conviction, Jeffery Fairbanks has been held responsible for her tragic death and disappearance.”

On May 29, 2015, the child was reported missing by her mother, who told investigators that she left the infant with Fairbanks the previous morning. Fairbanks had returned to their Lawrence home on the night of May 28, 2015, and told the child’s mother that Janna was dead. Fairbanks admitted to detectives that he put a pillow over the infant to muffle her crying on the day that she died.

When questioned by police on the infant’s location, Fairbanks led detectives to a trash dumpster in an apartment complex. The multi-day search for Janna included a retention pond near the family’s home, the trash dumpster identified by Fairbanks, a trash transfer station, and two landfill areas. Janna’s body has never been recovered.