



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 14, 2021

METH MOM SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHILD ENDANGERMENT

A Bangor woman was sentenced to prison yesterday for three counts of felony child endangerment stemming from an incident in April of 2020 where her three-year-old daughter was poisoned by methamphetamine.

Alisha Helene Crandall (aka Crandell), 40, was sentenced in Butte County Superior Court on Thursday, May 13, 2021 to the upper term of seven years and four months in state prison.

District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the charges stemmed from an incident in April of 2020 when law enforcement and rescue personnel were called to a report of a small child having ingested methamphetamine in Bangor. Butte County Sheriff's deputies as well as Cal Fire medics responded, and a three-year-old girl in acute medical distress was transported to Oroville hospital.

Deputies learned through their investigation that the defendant and her boyfriend, Joseph Scott Webb, 43, had been living in a rural part of Bangor with Crandall's three children, aged three, six and eight. The deputies immediately recognized the conditions where Crandall and Webb had the children living were deplorable. The adults and children were living amongst a ramshackle collection of broken down vehicles and incomplete trailers with no running water or electricity and insufficient food. The children also had not been to school and had not seen a doctor or dentist for a substantial time.

Ramsey said that on the date of the incident, Crandall had been smoking methamphetamine and emptied her meth water "bong" into a red plastic cup that was identical to those her children drank out of, and then left it accessible to the children. Crandall's three-year-old daughter accidentally drank the toxic mixture, and immediately began to suffer from acute methamphetamine poisoning, developing a high fever and beginning to have seizures.

Ramsey said rather than calling 911 immediately, Crandall and Webb chose to avoid summoning help and instead cracked raw eggs down the toddler's throat to make her vomit and threw her into a pond on the property to cool her down. Roughly 15 minutes passed before a neighbor became aware of what was happening and 911 was called.

The three-year-old victim was transported to Oroville Hospital where doctors and nurses

performed life-saving measures, and was then taken to U.C. Davis by helicopter. Ramsey said it was not initially clear whether or not the little girl would survive due to the severity of her injuries, but fortunately she made a full recovery thanks in large part to the first responders, doctors and nurses who treated her.

Joseph Webb was sentenced late last year to six months in Butte County Jail and four years of felony probation for his role in the event. The judge noted the children were not his, but he had assumed a caretaker role. After the event, Webb cut off all contact with Crandall.

Ramsey said that Crandall received the maximum possible term for her charges, seven years and four months in state prison, which was a reflection on her complete disregard for her children's wellbeing. Ramsey said Crandall had lost a newborn in the state of Nevada several years ago, who was born positive for methamphetamine and died shortly thereafter. She was not prosecuted for that event.

Court proceedings are underway to terminate all Crandall's parental rights to her children and release them for adoption.

