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Fort Worth teen sentenced to 15 years for killing her baby

(Fort Worth, TX) – On Friday, a 17-year-old girl was sentenced by a jury to 15 years behind bars for murdering her newborn baby.

The teen delivered a baby girl on September 9, 2021, in the bathroom at her family's Fort Worth home. Paramedics were called; the girl and her baby were taken to the hospital.

By then, the baby she named Dayana had a skull fracture and was hemorrhaging. She lived about six hours before she was pronounced dead.

"The only people who showed Dayana comfort were Samantha Sandoval (MedStar) and the nurses at JPS," said Assistant District Attorney Lee Sorrells, who prosecuted the case with ADA Kyle Morris.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office determined the baby's death was a homicide from blunt force injuries to the head. The juvenile mother was charged with capital murder of a person under 10 years old. Her name is being withheld because she is a minor.

"Six hours," Morris said. "Six hours is how long Dayana suffered before she succumbed to the injuries inflicted by her own mother when the Respondent beat her to death."

A review of the girl's cell phone revealed chat messages between her and the baby's father stating that neither wanted the baby. They discussed how to get rid of the baby, such as taking abortion pills or punching the teen mother in the stomach. The girl said she could wrap the baby "in a towel and hit it."

The teen admitted she killed her baby and asked a jury to determine her sentence. She since had another baby that was taken from her by Child Protective Services.

Sorrells and Morris sought to certify the teen as an adult. 323rd District Judge Kim denied the state's request and kept the girl in the juvenile court system.

The teen will be sent to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. Prior to her 19th birthday, the judge will determine whether she should go to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to serve the remainder of her sentence.

DA Investigator Esther Goodwin worked on the case as well. Thanks to the Fort Worth Police Department for their work on this case and for their commitment to keeping our community safe.