

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Dec. 21, 2009

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MAYS LANDING – A Somers Point man entered a guilty plea today for the 2007 beating death of his 4-year-old son in their apartment, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel stated.

Joseph Deneal II, 25, of 100 New Road, will be sentenced to 15 years in accordance with the plea agreement for aggravated manslaughter. Deneal must serve 85 percent of the prison term before parole eligibility. Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo will sentence Deneal on Jan. 29, 2010, according to Assistant Prosecutor Pamela K. D'Arcy.

On Dec. 10, 2007, Somers Point Police received a 911 call for an unresponsive child at the Brandywine Apartments, located at 100 New Road. Emergency personnel transported the child to Shore Memorial Hospital where efforts to resuscitate him were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead. Atlantic County Medical Examiner Dr. Hydow Park performed an autopsy and ruled the victim died of multiple blunt force trauma, D'Arcy stated.

The Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Crimes Against Children Unit responded to the hospital and began an investigation with the assistance of the Somers Point Police Department, which led to Deneal's Dec. 12, 2007 arrest. In February of 2008 an Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted the defendant. He has remained in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of bail pending further proceedings since his arrest, D'Arcy said.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.