

# Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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March 4, 2015

## San Dimas Man Sentenced to Prison for Child Assault

A 29-year-old man convicted of assaulting his toddler son, resulting in the child becoming disabled, was sentenced today to life in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Following a month-long trial, James David Higbee (dob 3/4/86) of San Dimas was convicted by a jury on Nov. 17 of two felony counts: assault on a child causing paralysis and child abuse in case KA096112.

Additionally, jurors found true a special allegation that Higbee personally inflicted great bodily injury during the commission of the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Deborah Scott, who prosecuted the case, said on Sept. 27, 2011, the child's maternal grandmother dropped off the 1-year-old boy at Higbee's San Dimas home for visitation.

During the short visit, the child became injured, according to the prosecutor. When the paternal grandmother returned to the home from a short trip to the grocery store, the boy's body was limp, his breathing was loud and uneven, and his eyes had rolled back in his head, the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor said that the paternal grandmother directed Higbee to call 911. When paramedics arrived, they took the child to Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, where doctors concluded he suffered two skull fractures, as well as severe brain injuries.

Due to the extensive nature of the child's injuries, he was transferred to Loma Linda University Medical Center for treatment.

At trial, doctors testified that the child has had numerous skull and brain surgeries as a result of his injuries. Despite medical treatment, the now 4-year-old child is physically disabled.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants.