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SPARTANBURG MAN RECEIVES 20-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR FELONY CHILD ABUSE, ASSAULT

A Spartanburg man received a 20-year prison sentence today after he admitted to physically abusing a 22-month-old baby girl.

Robert Lee Steadman Jr., 21, pleaded guilty to felony child abuse. Steadman admitted to hurting the child on or about Oct. 6, 2013. Spartanburg Regional Medical Center workers contacted sheriff's deputies after they found visible bruises to the baby's face, arms, legs and torso along with bite marks, a swollen mouth and possible fractures to an arm and leg. The baby underwent surgery to repair fractures to her arm, wrist and leg.

Deputies learned the injuries occurred at a Fairfax Street home where Robert Steadman lived with his grandmother, the baby and her mother. Steadman confessed to the crime during a police interview. He told deputies the injuries occurred when he attempted to pick the baby up by one arm and a leg. He also admitted to pulling hair out of her head and pulling her leg because she would not stop crying. Steadman told deputies he needed help with his anger issues and his drug problems.

The baby has been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and she participates in weekly counseling.

"Robert Steadman's rage left a precious little girl with injuries she will struggle to recover from," Assistant Solicitor Megan Moricle said. "I pray she can find a way to live a healthy and happy life."

The baby's grandmother asked Circuit Judge Roger Couch to issue 20-year maximum sentence for the crime. Moricle also shared photos of the victim that were taken at the hospital.

Steadman also pled guilty to an unrelated third-degree assault & battery charge that was filed May 21, 2014. Steadman assaulted his wheelchair-bound great grandmother after she refused to give him money for cigarettes. The assault victim wasn't seriously injured.

Steadman will serve 80 percent of Circuit Judge Roger Couch's prison sentence before he is eligible for release. His prior criminal record included a conviction for second-degree assault & battery.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892 or mglenn@spartanburgcounty.org.

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