



DEKALB COUNTY  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MAN SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR WHIPPING TODDLER WITH BELT**

DeKalb County Solicitor-General Sherry Boston announced today the sentencing of JAMES FREEMAN to 30 days in jail, probation for 12 months, 40 hours of community service, alcohol and psychiatric evaluations, 12 anger management classes, and to have no contact with the victim or the victim's family.

Earlier this month, a jury found the defendant guilty of simple battery after he deliberately and repeatedly used his belt to whip a two-year-old toddler who was not related to him but had been playing in his garden.

"As a mother, I know toddlers can be challenging but it is inappropriate, in fact, criminal for a complete stranger to take matters into his own hands and discipline a child -- especially when the child's parent is nearby," said Solicitor-General Boston. "I hope this verdict sends a clear message that this office will advocate for victims, especially young children, who can't speak for themselves."

DeKalb County State Court Judge C. David Wood sentenced Mr. Freeman.

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