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Starving child case against both parents delayed till August

By Aaron Nicodemus TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

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LEOMINSTER— The child starvation case against a Holden couple has been postponed until August.

Kellie and Joshua Theriault of Holden appeared in Leominster District Court yesterday to face allegations that they nearly starved their 2-1/2-year-old son to death. The charge of reckless child endangerment is a misdemeanor.

The case was postponed until Aug. 27 because the prosecutor in the case is ill.

The Department of Social Services removed the couple's son, now 3 years old, as well as their three other children, in February. The DSS visited their home at 1588 Main St. in Jefferson after an anonymous report on an emergency DSS hotline that the boy had bruises on his face. He weighed 17 pounds at the time.

DSS reported in court records that the boy has gained weight and is growing normally in foster care, and has improved in all areas in which he had been delayed.

Dr. Rebecca Moles, director of the Child Protection Program at UMass Memorial Medical Center, examined the boy after DSS removed him from the Theriaults' home, according to court records. Dr. Moles wrote that if the boy had not been removed from the house, he would have died. She called it the worst case of malnutrition she had ever seen.

The boy's family doctor offered a starkly different assessment of the child's condition.


Dr. William J. Blake of Holden wrote a letter to the court saying that there is nothing wrong with the child — that he is just undersize.





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