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**PRESS RELEASE
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13 To 31 Years Ordered for Child Abuse

A Jersey Shore man will spend up to 31 years in state prison for physically abusing a 3-year-old in his care, Lycoming County District Attorney, Eric R. Linhardt announced.

At his trial in April, a jury found 24-year-old Christopher Schenck guilty of aggravated and simple assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and recklessly endangering another.

Pennsylvania State Police charged Schenck in June of 2013 after the boy's injuries were discovered, although the investigation led State Police to believe Schenck had been abusing the boy since April. Police found the child unresponsive on the floor of his home. They observed multiple bruises all over the child's body, including on his legs, thighs, face, buttocks, back, arms and neck.

Schenck said the child had slipped in the tub, but doctors at Geisinger Medical Center – after examining the victim – said the injuries were consistent with child abuse. Doctors observed more than 80 contusions on the victim, and the three year old also suffered swelling to his brain as well as injuries to his abdomen, pancreas, and liver.

During a recent interview for a pre-sentencing report, Schenck still maintained that the child slipped in the tub and fell again going from the kitchen to the living room. The injuries were too widespread and severe to be caused by two falls, doctors reasoned. They noted that contusions on the child's back and buttocks suggested that he was struck with some type of square object.

In Court Tuesday, Judge Marc F. Lovecchio sentenced Schenck to 11 to 27 years for the four charges. He added two to four more years for the parole violation on Schenck's 2010 conviction for theft.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Martin Wade.