



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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MONTOYA MURDER CONVICTION UPHELD

The Colorado Court of Appeals has affirmed the first-degree murder conviction of the man who killed a 3-year-old toddler in 2007. The body of Neveah Gallegos was found in a ravine in Lakewood Dry Gulch in the 1100 block of Perry Street in September 2007 following days of searching by police and hundreds of community members.

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey noted this case has a lengthy history of a lot of hard work by Denver law enforcement, so “This decision is good news to many people.”

Angel Ray Montoya (dob: 01-19-85) was found guilty of *first-degree murder* (F1), *child abuse resulting in death* (F2) and *abuse of a corpse* (M) by a Denver jury and was given a mandatory life term for the first-degree murder count, 48 years for the child abuse resulting in death count, and 12 months for abuse of a corpse, to be served concurrently.

He appealed his conviction and alleged in his appeal that the trial court had erred in its jury instructions and by improperly admitting evidence and testimony.

In an unpublished opinion dated yesterday, August 20, 2015, The Colorado Court of Appeals rejected Montoya’s arguments and affirmed his conviction. The case was handled on appeal by Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman and First Assistant Attorney General Paul Koehler.

The child’s mother, **Miriam Gallegos** (dob: 04-25-87) was also charged in the case. She pleaded guilty to child abuse resulting in death and is serving a 12-year sentence in the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Both cases were prosecuted by Chief Deputy DA Christine Washburn and then-Chief Deputy DA Michelle Amico. Amico is now serving as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.