

## **Khiem Nguyen**

On December 27<sup>th</sup> of last year one year old Khiem Nguyen was violently assaulted by his babysitter. On December 5, 2008 the defendant plead guilty to second degree aggravated assault. She will be sentenced on January 22, 2009. The plea bargain calls for a sentence from 5 to 10 years.

Khiem is the only child of Khoi and Bich Nguyen who came to the United States from Viet Nam in 1998. Khoi was a math and physics teacher in Viet Nam. Since they came to the USA they have worked as nail technicians.

Khiem initially was put on a life support system. His parents refused to disconnect the life support and prayed that he would survive. Khiem suffered several fractures in his skull. He has a shunt in his skull. He suffers from traumatic brain injury and cerebral palsy. He is blind and must be fed through a tube in his stomach. His prognosis is not good and the Morris County prosecutor has reserved the right to bring homicide charges if he should not physically survive.

Khoi has not worked since his son was injured, and the family was forced to give up their apartment. They have just secured another apartment in Budd Lake, however, it will be very difficult to pay the rent. A claim for assistance was filed with the State Victims of Crime Compensation Office in April. It is now eight months later and the family has received nothing from the VCCA. My letters and phone calls to the VCCA have accomplished nothing. If this claim had been brought to this state agency when I sat at its chairman, it would have been treated as an emergency and been resolved immediately.

There were two news articles in the Star Ledger and Daily Record. They can be read at

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/article/20081205/COMMUNITIES34/812050342&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL>

and

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-12/1228455450107800.xml&coll=1>

The outpouring of offers of compassion has been overwhelming and the family is greatly appreciative. They speak little to no English and require an interpreter. There have been so many remarkable people assisting them such as the nurses, social worker and frankly anyone who meets this beautiful family.

Financial assistance for this family would be greatly appreciated. Questions may be directed to the New Jersey Crime Victims' Law Center at 973-729-9342. All contributions will be made through the Law Center and will therefore be tax deductible.

Thank you.

Richard Pompelio

December 6, 2008