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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATTHEW JOHN BRECK PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING 10 YEAR OLD ANNA PALMER AND IS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE.

Today, August 12, 2011, Matthew John Breck, age 32, pleaded guilty to the September 10, 1998 aggravated murder of ten year old Anna Palmer. Anna was found within one half hour of the crime on the front porch of her home by her mother.

In pleading guilty Matthew John Breck admitted that he intentionally or knowingly caused Anna Palmer's death while engaged in the commission of child abuse and aggravated kidnapping. He further admitted that the homicide was committed in an especially heinous, atrocious, cruel, or exceptionally depraved manner in that he beat and repeatedly stabbed Anna Palmer, causing serious bodily injury to Anna before her death. In exchange for his plea, the State agreed to strike the aggravating circumstance of aggravated sexual abuse of a child. The State also agreed to dismiss the charges of aggravated sexual abuse of a child, a first degree felony, and child abuse, a second degree felony.

Matthew John Breck was sentenced by Judge Judith Atherton to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. This means that he will spend the rest of his natural life in prison. Anna's family is pleased with the resolution and is grateful that justice was served and that Matthew John Breck was held responsible for Anna's death. The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office wishes to acknowledge and express their appreciation to the Salt Lake City Police Department for their dedication and persistence in solving this tragic murder case.

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