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PRESS RELEASE

Davis County Attorney's Office

May 28, 2010

Regarding the Ethan Stacy Homicide

Today the Davis County Attorney's Office has charged 31-year-old **Nathanael Sloop** and 27-year-old **Stephanie Sloop** with the following crimes against 4-year-old Ethan Stacy:

Count I: *Aggravated Murder*, which carries the following possible mandatory penalties:

If Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty is filed: (1) Death; (2) Life Without Parole; or (3) an Indeterminate Term of 25 Years to Life.

If Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty is not filed: (1) Life Without Parole; or (2) an Indeterminate Term of 20 Years to Life.

Count II: *Child Abuse*, a 2nd degree felony, which carries a potential sentence of 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison.

Count III: *Obstruction of Justice*, a 2nd degree felony, which carries a potential sentence of 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison.

Count IV: *Abuse or Desecration of a Body*, a 3rd degree felony, which carries a potential sentence of 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison.

In addition, **Nathanael Sloop** has been charged with:

Count V: *Damaging a Jail*, a 3rd degree felony, which carries a potential sentence of 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison.

Concerning the death penalty, Utah Code § 76-5-202 says:

(3)(c)(i) Within 60 days after arraignment of the defendant, the prosecutor may file notice of intent to seek the death penalty. The notice shall be served on the defendant or defense counsel and filed with the court.

(ii) Notice of intent to seek the death penalty may be served and filed more than 60 days after the arraignment upon written stipulation of the parties or upon a finding by the court of good cause.

Our decision regarding the death penalty will be made within the time allowed by law. Any Notice of Intent as to either defendant will come only after we have received all relevant evidence and information, after we have carefully considered statutory aggravating or mitigating circumstances, after further consultation with the Attorney General's Office (including the Appellate Division), after we have consulted with Layton P.D., and particularly after we have had extensive discussions with Ethan's family.

We respect the public's desire for information. However, as a result of the filing of formal charging documents today, criminal cases are now pending against both defendants that may end in our office seeking the most serious and ultimate penalty. Therefore, we will not discuss the facts in any forum other than court proceedings.

We express gratitude to all local, state, and federal investigators who have been involved in this case. Most importantly, we are touched by those who have expressed support for Ethan Stacy and his family.