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P R E S S S T A T E M E N T

July 27th, 2006

Salt Lake City – Today, July 27th, 2006, the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office filed charges of Aggravated Murder and Child Kidnapping against **Craig Roger Gregerson** (DOB 3/12/86). The Aggravated Murder charge alleges two aggravating circumstances: first, that Destiny Norton, age 5, was intentionally or knowingly killed by Craig Roger Gregerson during the course of being kidnapped; and second, that the homicide was committed incident to Craig Roger Gregerson abusing her dead body. Aggravated Murder, a capital felony, is punishable by death, life in prison without the possibility of parole, or a sentence of twenty years to life in prison. The Child Kidnapping charge, a first degree felony, is punishable by a mandatory prison sentence with a minimum term of six, ten, or fifteen years to life. Mr. Gregerson is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The information alleges that on July 16th, 2006, five-year-old Destiny Norton went into the backyard of her home, located at 721 South 500 East, at approximately 8:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, her father, Ricky Norton began looking for her, but could not find her.

On July 24th, 2006, the defendant told Agent Steven Fillerup of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that on the night of July 16th, 2006, the defendant saw Destiny in the Norton's backyard, which is approximately fifty feet west of his residence. The defendant approached Destiny, spoke with her, and then persuaded her to come inside his residence.

The defendant stated that once she was inside the defendant's residence, Destiny wanted to leave and became very vocal. The defendant placed his hand over Destiny's mouth and squeezed. Destiny went limp. The defendant then carried Destiny's deceased body into his basement and later engaged in sexual activity with Destiny's body. On July 24th, 2006, Salt Lake City Police Department officers discovered Destiny's body in the defendant's basement. Her body was well-concealed in a plastic storage container.

Todd Grey, Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Utah, performed an autopsy on Destiny's body on July 25th, 2006. Dr. Grey observed injuries on her body

consistent with post-mortem vaginal penetration. Dr. Grey opined that the manner of Destiny's death was homicide, and that the cause of death was consistent with smothering.

The Salt Lake City Police Department, its chief, investigators, and officers, as well as the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, should be commended for the professional, determined and effective manner in which they have performed their investigation of this tragic case.

Our hearts and sympathies go out to Destiny's family and friends.

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