



**For Immediate Release**  
November 6, 2012

## **Father Pleads Guilty To Manslaughter of Baby Daughter**

**CALGARY** – On Tuesday, a Red Deer man has been sentenced to five years in prison in infant daughter's death.

The 4 month old daughter, Zaria McCall, suffered severe head injuries at the Stollery Children's Hospital on November 26, 2011. The father, Julian Thomson, admitted he was angry at the baby's mother when he shook his baby hitting her head on a baby toy and throwing her to the floor.

This sentence follows a recent domestic homicide, in which 20-year-old Lacey Jones-McKnight was murdered by her ex-boyfriend, Kristopher (Tray) Guenther.

"These homicides are a reminder of how important it is for us, as a community, to take a stand against domestic violence," said Andrea Silverstone, Co-Chair, Calgary Domestic Violence Collective (CDVC). "One incident is one too many. Our province has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in Canada, and it is no longer okay to stay silent."

In Calgary, there are more than 30 agencies and organizations ready and willing to support victims of domestic violence. From counselling services to shelters – help is available.

Melody Bundt-Witwer, a survivor of domestic violence, stresses the importance of using the resources available to the community. "You need to reach out and speak to someone about it. It's nothing you've done wrong and it's nothing to be ashamed of."

In 2011, police responded to approximately 16,000 domestic violence related complaints. And while that is a staggering number, about four times that number of cases goes unreported.

The CDVC encourages anyone who is or knows of anyone who is experiencing domestic violence to step forward and call police or one of Calgary's community resources. That one call may save a life.

Connect Family & Sexual Abuse Network	(403) 237-5888 (Toll Free:1-877-237-5888)
24-hour Family Violence Helpline	(403) 234-SAFE (7233)
Family Violence Information Line	310-1818 (Toll Free)
Distress Centre	(403) 266-HELP (4357)

The CDVC works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention and intervention in Calgary and strongly believes that increasing public awareness, providing education, and working to improve legislation can assist in prevention. This murder-suicide is yet another reminder of the existence of domestic violence within Alberta.

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**The CDVC works with community partners to provide a coordinated response to violence prevention in Calgary. Representatives include:**

AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, Alberta Child and Youth Services, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Alberta Employment and Immigration, Alberta Health Services: Addictions and Mental Health, Aventa Addiction Treatment for Women, Awo Taan Healing Lodge, Brenda Strafford Chair in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, Calgary Chinese Elderly Citizens' Association, Calgary Communities, Against Sexual Violence, Calgary Counseling Centre, Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, Calgary Legal Guidance, Calgary Police Services- Domestic Conflict Unit, Calgary Sexual Health Centre, Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter, Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, Chinese Community Response to Family Violence, Calgary Action Committee on Housing and Homelessness, Community Corrections and Release Programs Branch, Alberta Solicitor General, Community Crisis Society of Strathmore: Wheatlands Shelter, CONNECT Family and Sexual Abuse Network, Developmental Disabilities Resources Centre of Calgary, Discovery House, Distress Centre, Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary, HomeFront, Jane M. Oxenbury, M.Ed., R. Psych., Edan Counseling Associates, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Kerby Centre, Legal Aid Alberta, Multiple Sclerosis Society Calgary and Area Chapter,



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Peer Support Services for Abused Women, Rowan House Emergency Shelters, Servants Anonymous Society, Sonshine Community Services, United Way of Calgary and Area, Women's Centre of Calgary, Youville Recovery Residence for Women, YWCA Banff, YWCA of Calgary, or YWCA Emergency Shelter: Sheriff King Home