Mother of Aaron Benjamin Jr. Sentenced to 18 Years Imprisonment For Death of Her Young Son

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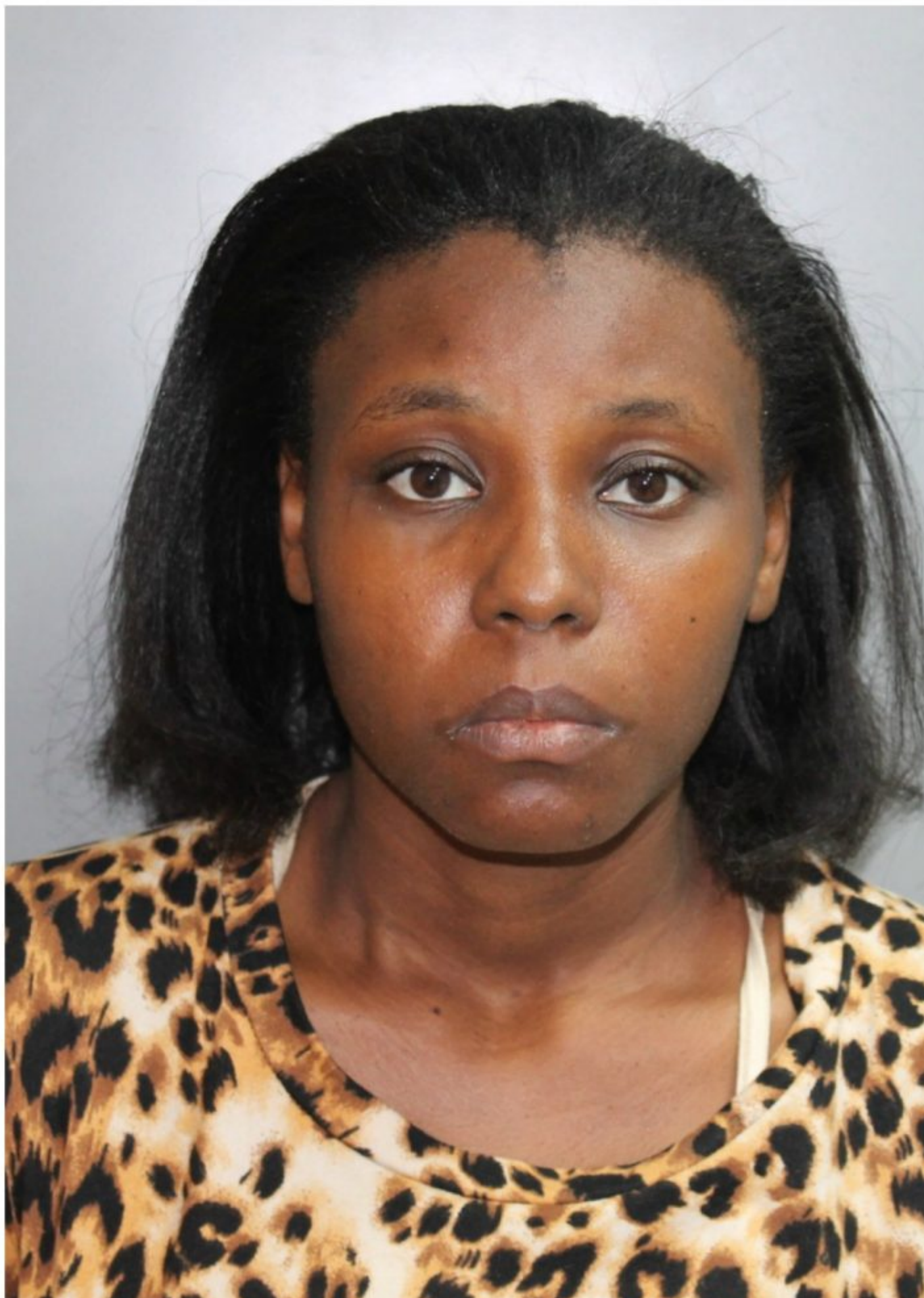Staff Consortium February 17, 2022

A closed casket of Aaron Benjamin Jr. at his funeral service on Nov. 2, 2019.   By. CRUSELDA ROBERTS/V.I. CONSORTIUM

ST. CROIX — Delicia Daniel, who was facing multiple criminal charges including first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse in connection with the 2019 death of her son Aaron Benjamin Jr., who was 4 years old at the time, was sentenced on Wednesday to 18 years imprisonment by V.I. Superior Court Judge Harold Willocks. Daniel in Oct. 2021 pleaded guilty to the charges against her.

Kyle Christopher, Ms. Daniel's boyfriend who admitted to beating the child causing him to fall and hit his head against a chair, was also charged with first-degree murder, aggravated assault and

battery, aggravated child abuse and neglect, and third-degree assault. His trial will begin on April 11.

Aaron Benjamin, Jr. was found dead in his mother's Lorraine Village housing community apartment on Friday, Oct. 11, 2019.

Black and blue eye, bite marks, more abuse

According to the affidavit, the deceased child, who was examined by Dr. Leslie Burton at the Juan F. Luis Hospital, was dead on arrival. He also had a black and blue left eye, bite marks and fresh and old abrasions.

Officers said a girl child, Aaron's sister, told police that "Daddy Kyle beats her and her brother with a black stick."

[Watch | Young Aaron Benjamin is Buried on His 5th Birthday]

Father speaks out

Aaron Benjamin, Sr. told police that a court order prevented him from having his children, and that the mother had kept them away from him for several months. He told police that both his children had told him they were being beaten by Christopher, and that since April 2019, he noticed his daughter had a black eye. The children had also expressed to their father that they did not want to go back to their mother's Lorraine Village apartment.

Young Aaron Benjamin, Jr. dies

Christoper told police that on Oct. 10 at about 7:00 a.m., he slapped Aaron in the face for stealing his sister's Caprisun drink. The boy stumbled and fell, hitting his head against a chair. Thereafter, Aaron started to vomit, according to Christopher, who also told police that the boy continued vomiting and stumbling throughout the day.

The following day, Oct. 11, Aaron's condition hadn't improved. Christopher told police that at about noon that day, Aaron asked to use the bathroom but couldn't stand on his own, so he had to be assisted. The boy then stopped breathing, Christopher told detectives, according to the affidavit.

Initially Daniel, Aaron's mother, told detectives that Christopher did not strike the children and that she was the only one to do so. However, she later changed her statement to concede that Christopher did beat the children, although she said it wasn't in her presence.

Backstory

V.I.P.D. public information officer at the time, Glen Dratte, told the Consortium on Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, that the 911 emergency call center had received notification of the incident at about 12:59 p.m. Officers and EMS personnel were immediately dispatched to the scene, and upon arrival, emergency personnel administered CPR on the boy to no avail.

In the initial V.I.P.D. release, police said the boy was found badly abused and was malnourished. Additionally, the V.I.P.D.'s preliminary investigation with medical personnel into the incident found that the boy had varying stages of lacerations, which suggested he was badly beaten.