



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**KRISHNA A. ABRAMS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Sharon S. Henry
Chief Deputy

Paul D. Sequeira
Chief Deputy

Ken L. Kramer
Chief Investigator

PRESS RELEASE

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Re: Parole Board hearing for Inmate Franklin Taylor, CDCR #H10353

On June 8, 2017, a Board of Parole Hearing was held at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo, CA for convicted murderer Franklin Taylor.

On October 6, 1990, Franklin Taylor brought a two year old child, Nathaniel Joshua, to the North Bay Medical Center. Nathaniel was in cardiac arrest and not breathing. Taylor told the hospital personnel that he returned home to find the child face down in the bathtub, with the child's mother not present. He told a different nurse that he was a friend of the child's mother and that he found the child when he went to visit. Taylor left the hospital, saying he wanted to find the child's mother.

Nathaniel's mother, Tiffany Roberts, stated that Taylor was her boyfriend and that she left Nathaniel in Taylor's custody. That morning, Taylor drove her to an appointment at the welfare office in Suisun and then drove back home with Nathaniel. She called Taylor at 9:45 a.m. to check on her son's condition and at that time Taylor told her that Nathaniel had "boo booded." Taylor later picked her up and told her that the victim was in the hospital and had hurt himself in the bathtub. Taylor turned himself in to the Fairfield Police Department and told the police "Sorry, sorry, it was an accident." He was arrested at that time. While at the Solano County Jail, he made the further statement that "I didn't mean to kill him, it was an accident."

Nathaniel was found by doctors to have bruises along his rib cage, his arms, and lower abdomen. He had a large bruise in the center of his back with several smaller bruises around it. Doctors testified that he had been hit with great force, likely fists, at least twice. These severe blows to Nathaniel's abdomen caused the separation of his small intestine, internal bleeding, laceration to his pancreas, and damage to blood vessels. Nathaniel was pronounced dead at 10:50 a.m., shortly after Taylor left him at the hospital.

Taylor went to trial and was found guilty by a jury of second degree murder on July 24, 1991. He was sentenced on September 19, 1991, to a term of fifteen years to life. Prior to this incident, on June 27, 1990, Taylor shot and killed a man in San Francisco and then threatened that victim's brother with a gun when he tried to help the victim. Taylor was wanted for this crime at the time he killed Nathaniel. Taylor pled guilty to manslaughter for that offense in April 1992 and was sentenced to fifteen years prison consecutive to his life sentence. While in prison, in 2002 Taylor was convicted of possession of controlled substance in prison and was sentenced to six additional years consecutive to his other sentence.

Johnson has had four prior parole board hearings, the last in 2012 resulting in a five year denial of parole.

Deputy District Attorney William Ainsworth opposed release of Franklin Taylor on parole based on the unreasonable risk Taylor would pose to public safety if released. Taylor requested his release and testified at his parole hearing. The parole board denied release, finding that Taylor still represents an unreasonable risk of harm to the community. Taylor will not be eligible for a parole hearing for another three years.