osg4 2012-08-02 SECOND CHANCE

TOF

Last year, in Jonesboro Georgia, day care workers made a mistake. A horrible mistake. On a hot summer day after taking the toddlers on a field trip, they forgot about two year old Jazmin Green. She ended up sitting in the van, in the sun, for two hours. By the time they realized she was missing – it was too late – and Jazmin died at the hospital.

Police arrested three people including Sixteen-year-old Miesha Ridley -- the day care worker who checked off that the toddler was removed from the van. She pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

"(Reid:) How hard was it for you to deal with Jazmin's death? (Ridley:) It was really hard - (chokes up a bit) - because it felt like that was my child. Because I've known her for so long. (Reid:) Did you feel like your life was over? (Ridley:) Yeah, I really did." (:12)

She was facing prison time. But the judge decided that as bad her mistake was, prison wasn’t the answer. What the judge did instead after this from Charlie:

(((SPOT))

At first Jazmin Green’s parents wanted everyone involved to serve time for the death of their daughter, who had been left in a daycare van on a 90 degree day.

"It's blind rage at first - because it's your daughter. You don't care who did it. You want justice immediately." (:06)

But in the case of 16 year old Miesha (my-EE-shuh) Ridley, who admitted to falsely checking off that the toddler was out of the van, Clayton County Judge Steve Teske, (TESS-key) proposed something else:

"Miesha was already heading to college - she was already on a path to success." (:07)

He explained to CBS’s Chip Reid that he decided to sentence her to two years probation on condition she create a memorial:

"(Reid:) What was the inspiration for having Miesha create a memorial to Jazmin? (Teske:) It came from Jazmin's father when he was in the courtroom. He asked this one question: 'Who's going to remember my daughter?' Wow, that struck me right here. (motions)" (:20)

And three months later Miesha Ridley presented to the parents of Jazmin Green the quilt she had made in memory of their daughter.

"You did a good job, yeah." (:02)

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