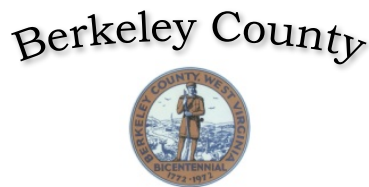


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## Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

March 16, 2020

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

MARTINSBURG, WV – Berkeley County Prosecuting Attorney Catie Wilkes Delligatti announces that on Monday, March 16, 2020, Nisa Hanvey was found guilty by a Berkeley County jury of Child Neglect Resulting in Bodily Injury and Child Neglect Creating Substantial Risk of Bodily Injury. The same jury also found Taishon Johnson guilty of four (4) counts of Child Abuse Causing Serious Bodily Injury, two (2) counts of Child Abuse Causing Bodily Injury, and one (1) Count of Gross Child Neglect Creating Substantial Risk of Death or Serious Bodily Injury. Taishon Johnson was acquitted on six additional charges of Child Abuse.

The trial lasted three days and the jury deliberated for approximately three and a half hours before returning the verdicts at 10:45 a.m. on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The State of West Virginia was represented by Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys Joseph Kinser and Harley Orrin Stagers, III. Nisa Hanvey was represented by defense attorney Paul Taylor, Esq. Taishon Johnson was represented by defense attorney Matthew Yanni. The case was investigated by Detective Sgt. Adam Albaugh of the Martinsburg City Police. The Honorable Judge Bridget Cohee presided over the proceeding.

Nisa Hanvey faces a potential sentence of up to 1.5 - 3 years for her convictions and Taishon Johnson faces a potential sentence of up to 11 - 55 years for his convictions. Both Defendants will be required to register on the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry for a period of ten years and both Defendants will be required to serve, in addition to any other sentence, a period of supervised release of up to fifty years. A Sentencing Hearing will be held before the Honorable Judge Bridget Cohee on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Taishon Johnson was remanded to the custody of the Eastern Regional Jail following the jury's verdict.

Ms. Delligatti thanks Mr. Kinser and Mr. Stagers for their stellar advocacy to obtain justice on behalf of the minor victim in this matter, and Det. Sgt. Albaugh for his thorough investigation and commitment to keeping our community safe. Ms. Delligatti also thanks the jury for considering the evidence and providing a just verdict.