

## **MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH**

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### **Legg Brothers Admit to Roles in Death of Patrick Lerch**

(September 21, 2012... Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that Ronald Legg, 22, and his brother Randy Legg, 20, of St. Leger Avenue in Akron, pleaded guilty in the death of Akron toddler Patrick Lerch. Ronald pleaded guilty to Murder, Child Endangering and Illegal Manufacturing of Drugs. Randy pleaded guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter and Illegal Possession of Chemicals to Manufacture Drugs.

Patrick died February 26 after ingesting large amounts of methamphetamine. Heather Lerch and her son Patrick moved into the home of Heather's boyfriend, Randy Legg, on St. Leger Avenue just days before Patrick died. Patrick was kept in the home's rat-infested basement in the care of Ronald Legg and Allen Kostra, who were cooking and high on meth throughout Patrick's last days.

"This is one of the saddest and most disturbing cases I've ever seen," said Prosecutor Walsh. "I am pleased that we were able to secure justice for Patrick."

Kostra, 25, pleaded guilty on August 16 to Involuntary Manslaughter, Child Endangering and Illegal Manufacture of Drugs. A jury found Heather guilty of Murder, Involuntary Manslaughter and Child Endangering on August 27.

Judge Thomas Parker will sentence Heather and Ronald at 9:00 a.m. on September 25, Kostra on October 8 at 9:00 a.m. and Randy on October 23 at 9:00 a.m.