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PRESS RELEASE

On September 26, 2013, the Fourth District Appellate Court affirmed the conviction of Ty Cline for first degree murder. On September 14, 2009, a Logan County Grand Jury indicted Ty Cline on a single count of first degree murder involving the death of a two year old boy. On September 22, 2011, after eight days of jury trial and approximately eleven hours of deliberation, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty.

Ty Cline appealed the guilty verdict to the Fourth District Appellate Court. In the appeal, Ty Cline argued, among other issues, that the trial court erred in refusing to give the defendant's tendered child endangerment instruction to the jury. Justice Knecht delivered the judgment of the Appellate Court affirming the ruling of Resident Circuit Judge Thomas Harris that child endangerment is not a lesser included offense of first degree murder based upon the facts of this case. Justice Steigmann and Justice Pope concurred in the judgment.

Ty Cline is currently serving a 30 year sentence in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Ty Cline was represented at trial by Mr. James Elmore and Mr. Jeff Page, both of Springfield, Illinois. The prosecution was conducted by Jonathan Wright, then Logan County Assistant State's Attorney, and Ed Parkinson, of the Illinois State Appellate Prosecutor's Office.

Jonathan C. Wright
Logan County State's Attorney