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NEWS RELEASE

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GUILTY PLEA IN SHOOTING OF 2-YEAR-OLD

A man accused of shooting and killing a 2-year-old boy in 2008 unexpectedly pleaded guilty in connection with the case today, just as his trial was getting underway in Denver District Court.

Earl Ryan (dob: 06-15-68) pleaded guilty this morning to *child abuse resulting in death* (F3) and *second-degree assault* (F4). In exchange for his guilty plea, charges of first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and first-degree assault were dismissed.

On October 12, 2008 at about 9:50 a.m., Denver Police responded to the 1200 block of Madison Street on a report of a shooting. The investigation showed that Ryan had fired shots that injured 30-year-old Thomas Crookham and killed 2-year-old Noah Crookham.

Ryan faces up to 28 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections when he is sentenced on May 4, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Denver District Courtroom 23.