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# Woman gets 21 years for murder of Blaine 9-month-old

By Paige Kieffer and Kevin Miller

A Brooklyn Center babysitter was sentenced

to more than 21 years in prison July 22 for killing a 9-month-old Blaine boy who was left in her care.

On June 21 Jennifer Lynn Baldwin, 38, was found guilty in Hennepin County District Court in Minneapolis of second degree murder while committing assault in the third degree of a victim under the age of 4.

Baldwin was sentenced July 22 to a prison term of 255 months (21 years, 3 months), and was credited 36 days she'd already served in jail.

"I wished it had been longer," said Caitlin O'Brien, the mother of the victim, Colton Senogles. "(Colton) was the nicest little boy, always smiling, and I don't understand why anyone would want to hurt him, or any child at all."

According to the criminal complaint, the incident that resulted in Colton's death occurred on March 15, 2018.

On that date, police and paramedics arrived at Baldwin's residence on a report of an infant in



**Jennifer Lynn Baldwin** need of medical attention. Arriving officers observed

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**Colton Logan Senogles** Photo submitted



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# Brooklyn Center woman sentenced for murder of Blaine infant

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that Colton was lethargic and appeared to be laboring to breathe.

The baby was transported by ambulance to a hospital and treated for head injuries. Colton died five days later, on March 20, 2018.

O'Brien told investigators that she had taken her son to Baldwin's home at approximately 10:30 a.m. and Colton appeared uninjured and physically fine.

O'Brien had been friends with Baldwin several years.

At 11:39 a.m., Baldwin called O'Brien to come get Colton because "something's not right." O'Brien advised Baldwin to call 911. Baldwin then called Colton's father, Logan Senogles, who also advised her to call 911. She called 911 at 11:46 a.m.

Baldwin initially told investigators that she had laid Colton down to sleep, and after approximately a half an hour, he woke up and was "fussing." She went to get a dry outfit for him, and when Baldwin laid Colton down on the floor to change him, "she noticed his eyes 'would roll back' and he looked like 'he was in a different world,'" the complaint reads.

An autopsy performed by the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office found evidence of blunt



**Team Colton gathers July 22 at the Hennepin County District Court in Minneapolis after the sentencing of Jennifer Lynn Baldwin for the murder of 9-month-old Colton Logan Senogles of Blaine. Members of Team Colton included Colton's parents Caitlin O'Brien and Logan Senogles, third and fifth from left.**

Photo by Paige Kieffer

force head injury in the victim, including brain damage, hemorrhages in both eyes and contusions on the scalp and ear.

Investigators again interviewed Baldwin with the autopsy evidence and information from a child abuse specialist. She admitted she had handled the boy "roughly" and "aggressively," according to the report. She admitted she had not slept well the night before and had not taken her medications for anxiety and mood disorder that morning.

Baldwin had recently regained custody of her children from child protection,

and she told investigators she was experiencing financial difficulties. She also said she had noticed concerning changes in the child's appearance and behavior immediately after handling him in an aggressive manner.

Dozens of family members and friends of Colton attended the sentencing hearing July 22 wearing "Team Colton" T-shirts and carrying blue rocks of kindness bearing an image of Colton with Jesus. Blue is the color of child abuse prevention.

A few victim impact statements were given prior to Baldwin's sentencing.

"(Jennifer) murdered my family that day, not just Colton," said Logan Senogles. "Colton was an amazingly smart boy. I knew he was special and would go on to do something special later in life. ... He never got a life, and now my life, as it is, is over. ... I'm sentenced to a life of misery due to her actions."

"He was my first grandchild, and I don't know if I'll ever be a grandma again," said Kristine Senogles, Colton's grandmother. "The damage (Jennifer) has done to my family, to Logan and Caitlin, most of all to Colton Logan Senogles, who lost his life at 9 months old. In the end I just want her to serve the maximum amount of time that is allowed by law."

"Colton's life was cut short on that dark day March 15, 2018, by Jennifer Baldwin, who took out her selfish anger on our happy, beautiful 9-month-old baby boy," said Cindy O'Brien, Colton's grandmother. "Colton's life was taken from us and cannot be returned to us, and we grieve his loss every day. Jennifer took away from us his first steps, his first words, his first Easter, his first birthday, and his baptism was held in the intensive care unit at North Memorial. Many other first were stolen away from him and his parents. Jennifer not only took away the life of Colton, but also his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and many other family members and friends. Jennifer



**Members of Team Colton carried rocks of kindness July 22 to the sentencing of Jennifer Lynn Baldwin, who was sentenced to 21 years in prison for murdering 9-month-old Colton Logan Senogles of Blaine.**

Photo by Paige Kieffer

has changed our life forever, and yet we're Colton strong, and we believe in the justice system."

"(Colton) was perfection and so incredibly loved from the moment we were aware of his existence," said Alyssa Pohl, Colton's godmother. "We envisioned never-ending adventures that laid ahead and hopes and dreams that would make our head spin and our hearts full ... The day we lost Colton we not only lost him, but our entire lives as well. One senseless act and ripple effect has been excruciating. Our hopes and dreams are shattered, while confusion, blame and shame have destroyed an entire family. Every moment that has passed without him we are consumed with grief. We continue to try to pick up the pieces and destruction left behind by a monster. Our grief is forever."

"I'm the mother of an angel," said Caitlin O'Brien. "I'll try my best to keep this short and sweet much like the life of my son who was taken from me far too soon, in hopes for all of you to understand the magnitude of the negative effects of the loss of my son has been for me and the rest of the people who loved him. This heinous, malicious and selfish act has changed my whole life and left it empty and wondering why. From the beginning to the end Colton was happy. My beautiful, precious, innocent, perfect little blue-eyed boy smiled from the day he was born. Colton was the life. He was

the center of our world ... Now I wake up every day lifeless ... My purpose in life was murdered ... This should've never happened. Your friend should never kill your child ... I miss my son more than everything. I miss my life, and he was my life."

A dozen people also showed up in support of Baldwin, many of whom testified in support of her during the trial.

Baldwin did not testify at her trial but did submit a letter to the judge for the sentencing. The letter was not read in court.

"Miss Baldwin is remorseful about this," said Baldwin's attorney Andrew Gordan, paraphrasing her letter. "She's not remorseful because she has been charged with a crime that she has been convicted of, but she's remorseful because Colton is dead. She knows and understands that Colton's family will be missing all of the little things that are going to be denied to them."

Baldwin cried quietly throughout the sentencing hearing, and never looked into the gallery or at O'Brien and Senogles.

"Miss Baldwin, it's tragic that your children will grow up without a mother, but you've been found guilty of murder, and that changes everything," Hennepin County District Court Judge Jamie Anderson said during the sentencing. "I wish we knew exactly what happened that day."

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**Colton Logan Senogles**

Photo submitted