

April , 2016

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
Attorney General of the State of California  
1300 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

Dear Madam Attorney General:

The District Attorney of the County of Yolo, California, failed to follow the law in deciding not to prosecute Alexandria Griffin-Heady, 24, the owner of the pitbulls that killed Tyler Trammell-Huston, 9, on January 3, 2016.

Griffin-Heady left the boy alone in her mobile home with three pitbulls, two of which were confined in a wire cage. She knew the cage was breaking apart, the two dogs were mischievous and dangerous, and the 9-year-old boy did not know how to safely handle them. Those dogs fatally mauled the child while Griffin-Heady was absent.

The District Attorney failed to consider applying California Penal Code section 399(a) which makes it a felony to keep a mischievous animal without ordinary care if it kills a person. Failing to exercise discretion is an obvious abuse of discretion. The goals of achieving justice and ensuring public safety require that Griffin-Heady be charged under section 399(a).

The Attorney General's intervention is appropriate in any case where there was an obvious abuse of prosecutorial discretion. The California Constitution makes the Attorney General the chief law officer of the state and the supervisor of every district attorney. Article 5, Section 13 states: "Whenever in the opinion of the Attorney General any law of the State is not being adequately enforced in any county, it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to prosecute any violations of law of which the superior court shall have jurisdiction, and in such cases the Attorney General shall have all the powers of a district attorney."

Therefore I call upon you to exercise your constitutional authority to take over the prosecution of Alexandria Griffin-Heady for the violation of California Penal Code section 399(a) in connection with the killing of Tyler Trammell-Huston.

Sincerely,