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Boulevard Couple Sentenced for Sickening Abuse of Young Niece

Devin Hughes and Kayla Reynolds Beat, Burned and Starved Girl

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) announced today that a couple who lived in a mobile home on rural property in Boulevard have been sentenced to prison for severely abusing their 7-year-old niece. The abuse included starvation tactics, burnings, and forced drug use.

Devin Hughes, 39 and Kayla Reynolds, 32, were sentenced to 25 years in prison for their repeated abuse of the young victim, who found the courage and opportunity to run to a neighbor's home to ask for help. The couple pleaded guilty to 15 felony counts in March, including torture, child abuse, corporal injury, mayhem, and assault likely to cause great bodily injury.

"The level of abuse inflicted on this 7-year-old child is abhorrent and heartbreaking," DA Stephan said. "Our prosecution team, the dedicated deputies and detectives at the Sheriff's Office, along with the medical staff at Rady Children's Hospital who nursed the victim back to health all stepped in to restore her health and safety. She finally has a chance to blossom without the oppressive abuse of her wicked family members."

The victim in this case was under the care of her biological uncle, Hughes, and his girlfriend Reynolds when the abuse occurred. The couple also had three other children in the home. In July 2025, the young victim, whose body was covered with bruises, scars, burn marks and a black eye, escaped her abusers and ran to a neighbor's home where she asked if she could live with him because she was being beaten and abused. The neighbors immediately notified authorities.

When Sheriff's Deputies arrived, they observed the girl, who was malnourished and covered in visible injuries. She disclosed that her uncle had tied her hands behind her back with a zip tie, then tripped her, causing a large black eye. She said the defendants would cut her hair with a pocketknife, burn her with vape pens, starve her and force her to drink dirty toilet water. In

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addition, she was forced to hold her urine to the point of wetting herself and then would be forced to clean it up using her tongue. She would be forced to sleep on the floor and would often be chained to a treadmill using a cable lock.

When police conducted a search of the residence, they found horrendous living conditions and several items of evidence that corroborated the horrible abuse suffered by the victim including zip ties, cable locks, and vape pens.

During the victim's hospitalization at Rady Children's Hospital, she gained five pounds and was ultimately placed with a family member. The victim is now thriving in her new environment.

Deputy District Attorney Seralyn Fields prosecuted this case.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.