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### [Criminal Lawyer in Maryland: Woman Accused of Killing, Burying Baby in Park Sentenced to 10 Years Suspended](#)

A woman charged in March with killing and secretly burying her one-month-old son in Druid Hill Park pled guilty and was sentenced on January 19th to a suspended sentence of ten years in prison. Twenty-nine-year-old Lakesha Haynie was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, but had originally been charged with first-degree murder and child abuse following the death of her son Rajahnthon.

According to court records, Haynie's four other children had been removed from her home due to neglect, and she avoided delivering Rajahnthon in a hospital for fear she would lose custody of the baby. A prosecutor's account to Baltimore Circuit Judge Charles J. Peters after "extensive negotiations" with the defendant's [Maryland criminal lawyer](#) indicated that Haynie confessed the details of the boy's death to his father Soleme Smith, admitting to having accidentally suffocated the child while covering his mouth to stop his crying. Haynie lead Smith to her son's shallow grave in the park, removing and cradling the boy's body before reburying him.

Smith attempted but failed to persuade Haynie to report the crime to authorities for two weeks, eventually alerting police to the crime himself. The baby's body was found in the grave in a tethered bag, and injuries to the body indicated that the child had suffered a skull fracture two to three days before his death which would cause "changes in behavior that would have been apparent to an attentive parent." Manner of death for the infant was declared to be a homicide. During questioning, Haynie told police she had "found the baby dead in bed" and speculated that Smith had rolled over on the baby, killing him.

In addition to the ten-year suspended sentence, Haynie was sentenced to five years probation, forbidden from having contact with children under the age of seven, and ordered to report any future pregnancies to the Department of Social Services. Judge Peters told the defendant, who had been jailed from the time of her March arrest, that "[the] court will not hesitate to put [her] in jail" should she be found in violation of any of the terms handed down.

This blog post was published by the law firm Price Benowitz LLP. The firm has attorneys in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. For more information about their attorneys, please visit the [Virginia Criminal Attorney](#) and [Washington DC DUI Attorney](#) websites.