



## Brandon Hayes, man accused of beating Dominick Calhoun, 4, seeks evaluation to determine competency to stand trial

By Laura Angus | Flint Journal

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**FLINT, Michigan** — The attorney for a **man accused of torturing and killing a four-year-old boy** has asked for a mental evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

Brandon Hayes, 24, of Argentine Township was charged last week with torture and first-degree premeditated murder in the death of his girlfriend's son, **Dominick Calhoun**.

**Dominick** was found severely injured by Argentine Township police April 11 and died the next day after he was removed from life support. Officials said Hayes beat the boy for four days after Dominick **wet himself and soiled the couch**.

Saginaw attorney James Piazza on Tuesday filed a petition asking to have Hayes evaluated in the Michigan Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

A hearing on the request is set for April 27.

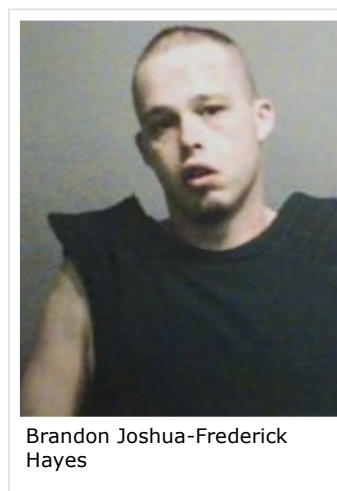
Hayes has claimed he was assaulted by another inmate at the Genesee County Jail shortly after his arrest last week.

Genesee County Sheriff Robert Pickell, however, said Hayes was taken to a hospital where Pickell said doctors found he "clearly" was not assaulted.

Hayes is currently being held without bond at the jail and Pickell said he is being kept in isolation to protect him from other prisoners.

"I have him in isolation because they would hurt him," Pickell said.

Piazza declined to comment on Hayes' claim that he was assaulted.



Brandon Joshua-Frederick Hayes



Submitted photo

Dominick Calhoun, 4, died Monday after police found him severely beaten on Sunday in his Argentine Township home.

**Dominick's mother** is being held at the Livingston County Jail on a probation violation.

The mother allegedly violated terms of a 2008 two year probation sentence by being in an environment with illegal drugs, moving without notifying officials of her new address and associating with Hayes, a person with a prior felony conviction, said Dan Chepeska, a supervisor in the Livingston County Probation Parole/Office.

She is being held on a \$50,000 cash bond and could face up to seven years in prison if convicted, said Chepeska.

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