

CHRISTINA BOYER CASE SUMMARY

Christina Boyer has been incarcerated since 1992.

Christina was sentenced to life and an additional twenty years with the possibility of parole. The state claimed that Christina was largely responsible for the death of her three-year-old daughter, Amber Bennett, who died on April 14, 1992 as a result of severe head trauma. Christina plead “no contest” to the child cruelty and neglect charges after the state agreed to reduce her sentence from capital murder.

Christina accepted an Alford Plea (pursuant to *North Carolina v. Alford*, [1970]) whereby she would plead guilty to two counts on the indictment, instead of five, and avoid the death penalty by accepting a life prison sentence.

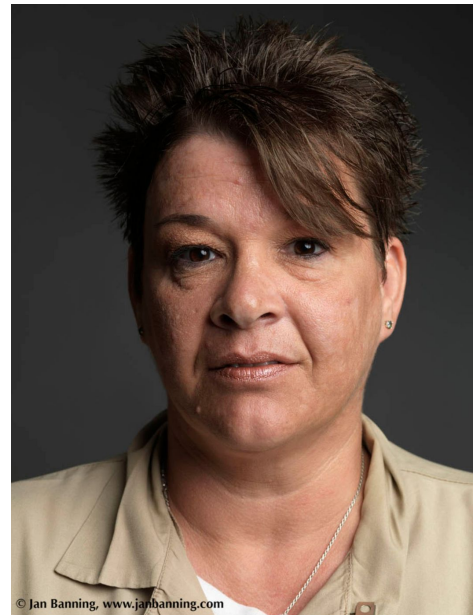
Christina maintains her innocence to this day.

In the hours before Amber’s death, Christina left her daughter in the care of her then boyfriend of two months, David Herrin. She returned to David’s mobile home later that day and found Amber purple, swollen, and unresponsive. Christina took Amber to the hospital immediately upon returning home from work. Amber was declared dead upon arrival.

Christina lives every day with the intense grief over the loss of her daughter and wishes she could have been a better mother to Amber in the short time they had together. However, throughout her entire 28-year incarceration, she has not wavered in her claim that she was neither abusive nor responsible for the physical trauma that caused her daughter’s death.

David was convicted of child cruelty and served a twenty-year sentence. He was released on parole in 2011, five years before the end of his sentence. Though Christina did not initially want to blame David for Amber’s death, evidence from the autopsy report indicates that Amber was severely injured in the hours after Christina’s departure, which almost certainly killed her. Christina maintains her alibi; David is the only person known to have been at the mobile home with Amber throughout that day.

Even on its surface, this case appears rife with inconsistencies and injustice. As Christina attempted to process the shock of her daughter’s sudden and disturbing death, she claims police insisted she sign a document before allowing her to return home from the hospital. This document confirmed that she had been read her Miranda rights. She claims not to have understood the document’s nature, nor that she had ever been read her Miranda rights. After her arrest, Christina’s defense attorney proved largely inadequate, allowing her to be coerced into an Alford plea deal while she was under the influence of heavy antidepressant and antipsychotic medications. Days later, Christina begged her attorney to reverse the plea, but nothing could be done. Had Christina been granted a fair trial, adequate defense, and had been allowed to tell her side of the story in the media circus that sprang up around Amber’s death, justice may have been served and a mother allowed to grieve.



For media, press, legal related inquiries, or other requests please contact justice4boyer@gmail.com.