

Herrin will serve up to 20 years in prison

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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A Gothenburg woman will spend the next 18 to 20 years of her life at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women in York.

On Friday, 28-year-old Doris Herrin received the maximum sentence from Dawson County District judge James Doyle.

Herrin was credited with serving 658 days since her arrest in December of 2010 following the death of her 3-year-old daughter Misty Herrin.

Following a jury trial in August, Herrin was found guilty of manslaughter.

Herrin and her boyfriend at the time, Adam Jesseph of Gothenburg, were charged with felony child abuse after Misty underwent surgery for a brain injury and later died of massive hemorrhaging. Charges against Jesseph were later dropped because the case was not winnable, according to Dawson County attorney Elizabeth Waterman.

The incident that led to Misty's death happened in Gothenburg. Herrin and Jesseph said the child had tried to climb a dresser and fell and they found her unresponsive on the floor. During the trial, medical officials testified Misty had suffered blunt force to the head.

During the sentencing, KRVN radio reported that Herrin said she had great remorse for her actions and apologized to her family for what she described as the pain and suffering she caused and the loss of her daughter.

Waterman described Misty Herrin as "a small, helpless child with no ability to protect herself from the abuse she suffered," according to the radio station.

Defense attorney Jeff Wightman asked for a sentence of probation or considerably less than the

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maximum based on Doris's minimal criminal history and work history prior to her time spent in jail, KRVN said.