

Press Release

For immediate release

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Maximum award for shaken baby

A two month old baby who suffered catastrophic brain injury when she was violently shaken by her father, has been awarded £250,000 for her injuries—the maximum award for a criminal injury.

Julie Ann Gates of Feltham in Middlesex was just eight weeks old when she was rushed into West Middlesex Hospital with serious injuries caused by shaking.

As a result, Julie Ann has cerebral palsy which affects all four of her limbs and suffers from daily fits and seizures. She is unable to sit up or roll over and has poor vision. Although she sometimes reacts to noise, she is unable to recognise faces, not even her mother's.

Following the incident, her father, Alan Ellis, also from Feltham in Middlesex was arrested and subsequently convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and unlawful wounding. He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Julie Ann's solicitor, Joanna Chapman of Bolt Burdon Claims, said: "Julie Ann was a beautiful baby, who had been born without any problems. Her life has been tragically altered by this violent incident. **We were delighted to gain the maximum award for the injuries from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority for this case and we believe it's the first time the CICA has agreed to pay for the setting up and administration of the trust fund for Julie Ann themselves. Normally, the cost of that procedure would be deducted from the award.**"

The child's mother, Mandy Gates, now aged 21, of Feltham in Middlesex, said: "There is nothing we can do to bring back that lovely little girl who was so fit and

healthy, but at least we can ensure that her future is secure and we know we can do the very best for her care.”

Julie Ann’s parents were not married and Mandy Gates no longer has any contact with the father.

ENDS

Editors, please note: All contact re this story to be through Joanna Chapman at Bolt Burdon Claims. The family are NOT to be contacted. It may be possible to get a photo of Julie Ann before the incident.

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