

Dale County man gets 20 years for abuse of stepson

Eddie Ledbetter pleaded guilty in November to abuse

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sentence under our law," Adams said. "If (Henry) woulda said 'lock him up, but I don't. You stay in jail for a year and it wears you down. He asked for a lie detector test but couldn't get one. He was appointed an attorney for maybe \$2,500 for a case another lawyer said would cost me \$47,500," Ronnie said.

Henry, who is also charged with aggravated child abuse, is set to stand trial in February.



Eddie Ledbetter

Ledbetter entered a blind plea to aggravated child abuse, a Class B felony, on Nov. 4.

Dale County Chief Sheriff's Investigator Harvey Mathis said statements from Henry showed Chad suffered severe punishment from Ledbetter, including being forced to drink hot sauce when he was disciplined and made to stand in a corner all day.

Mathis said Henry also said Chad was beaten by Ledbetter and hit with boxing gloves.

Ledbetter initially blamed the injuries on a trampoline incident, Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams showed through testimony.

Medical personnel said Chad also could have suffered from starvation.

"Chad will never be the same, and while Mr. Ledbetter didn't get all he deserved for what he did, he received the maximum

records.

Ledbetter's attorney, Fred Livandais, argued any comments from Henry regarding Ledbetter's case were "self-serving."

Ledbetter's father, Ronnie, stood by his son. He said Eddie pleaded guilty because he had no other choice.

A possession of a controlled substance charge was dismissed per Eddie's plea, according to court

records.

— whether right or wrong — should be the same for everybody, not just because of who you know or how much money you have."

Dale County Circuit Judge Ken Quattlebaum