

La Habra man gets jail for abusing baby daughter

A La Habra man was sentenced to two years in Orange County Jail for holding his 8-month-old daughter upside down by the ankles and shaking her, authorities said.

Joseph Michael Wise, 38, was sentenced Friday at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana by Superior Court Judge Thomas Goethals after pleading guilty in August to child abuse and endangerment with an enhancement that he inflicted great bodily injury.

Wise also received five years on probation, was ordered to undergo a 52-week child abuser program and was told to stay away from the child for five years, said Orange County District Attorney's spokesperson Farrah Emami.

[Wise was arrested the morning of May 16, 2009](#), after police were called to a residence in the 1500 block of South Beach Boulevard regarding a child having difficulty breathing, officials said.

The [child was treated](#) by Los Angeles County fire paramedics and was taken to UCI Medical Center in Orange in critical condition.

The baby sustained a brain hemorrhage and was hospitalized for three weeks.

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Dad accused of abusing baby daughter pleads not guilty

FULLERTON - A La Habra man accused of physically abusing his 8-month-old daughter pleaded not guilty today in Superior Court in Fullerton and remains in jail on \$100,000 bail.

Joseph Michael Wise, 37, of La Habra had been charged with one felony count of child abuse with a sentencing enhancement for causing great bodily injury, said Farrah Emami, a spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

The infant is being cared for by a family member after being released from the hospital a week ago, Emami said. The child was hospitalized for three weeks with "major head trauma and bleeding in the brain."

"It appears she is going to live but continues to suffer from serious medical conditions," Emami said.

Wise, whose preliminary hearing is set for Aug. 3, was arrested the morning of May 16 after police were called to a residence in the 1500 block of South Beach Boulevard regarding a child

having difficulty breathing, said La Habra police Lt. Tom Dutton.

The child was treated by Los Angeles County fire paramedics and was taken to UCI Medical Center in Orange in critical condition.

There were other children in the home at the time, Emami said, but they didn't witness any abuse.

As a precaution, the other children were taken into protective custody.

The baby's mother wasn't home when abuse is suspected to have taken place, according to officials