

Leavenworth man pleads guilty to aggravated battery in biting of baby

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LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- A 23-year-old Leavenworth man has pleaded guilty to **Aggravated Battery** after admitting to biting a baby.

Benjamin Frederick Douglas Oakes admitted to a Leavenworth police detective that, on several occasions, he bit the victim, whom he was caring for when the abuse happened.

On Friday, June 9, 2023, the Leavenworth Police Department was contacted by a social worker at a Kansas City area hospital concerning a child under the age of one who was believed to have been abused. According to court documents, the social worker noted bruising on the victim's body consistent with human bite marks.

During an interview with a Leavenworth police detective, Oakes confessed to causing the injuries. He admitted to biting the child once while she was crying and also admitted to using his teeth to grip the child's arm to steady the child while changing a diaper.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "I don't have words I can use to discuss this unfathomable crime. I will say this office will never tolerate the abuse of our youth. We are thankful for the medical staff, social workers, mandatory reporters, and law enforcement for their vigilant effort to protect our children."

This case is scheduled for sentencing on April 19, 2024.