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Once again, the news media and community in Sacramento are focused on the tragic death of a young child seemingly fatally abused by those whose responsibility it was to nurture, praise, protect and love him. We will now be riveted to the ensuing steps in the criminal justice system as the alleged perpetrators go through that process.

Justice cannot be obtained for Jeremiah McRath. He deserved to live and grow up healthy and cherished. He deserved to be parented in a way that he could emulate with his own children someday.

I cannot recall ever hearing about a child abuse fatality without also hearing from a family member, friend or neighbor about their suspicions. They heard yelling, saw bruises or some other indicator that the child was not safe. It only takes a minute to pick up the phone and call 211 for a referral or the Parent Support Line at (888) 281-3000 to ask for help or Child Protective Services at (916) 875-KIDS to report concern. When will the fear of being wrong, being hasty, or offending the parent be less than the obligation to act on behalf of a defenseless child?

Sheila Boxley

President & CEO
Child Abuse Prevention Center