

Child-injury case ends in a mistrial

BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

02/14/2004

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A16 of News

By a single vote, a hung jury resulted Friday in the Tulsa County trial of a man who is charged with injuring a child while he was a fugitive on charges of assaulting a different boy in New Jersey.

Jurors deliberated the fate of Ernest Jackson, 54, for more than six hours but could not reach a unanimous verdict.

The jury's vote was 11-1 in favor of finding Jackson guilty.

The mistrial means that Jackson will remain in jail and a new trial will be conducted.

Jackson and his wife, Kaia Jackson, were charged here in October 2002 with using unreasonable force in whipping and striking a son -- who is now 15 -- during a two-year period that ended in October 2000.

Prosecutors Dana Bogie and Mary Ann Godsby contended that Ernest Jackson regularly abused the boy with such objects such as a belt, a board and an extension cord.

Jackson did not testify. His court-appointed defense attorney, Donald Haslam, said the disciplinary measures Jackson used were "not excessive force."

The Jacksons were convicted in New Jersey on charges for which they had evaded capture for 12 years. They initially were arrested in 1988 in that case, in which a boy, then 8, said his stepfather and mother beat him with switches, electrical cords and hangers at their Teaneck, N.J., home.

Kaia Jackson, 53, was sentenced in September to 35 years in prison on the child-injury charge.



Jackson

Click on the photo above to view a larger version.

BILL BRAUN World Staff Writer

copyright © 2004 Tulsa World

Printed with permission from the Tulsa World.