

**MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT**

COMPLETE TITLE OF CASE:

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Respondent

v.

TONY RAY KING.

Appellant

DOCKET NUMBER WD76667

DATE: January 27, 2015

Appeal From:

Circuit Court of Buchanan County, MO
The Honorable Randall R. Jackson, Judge

Appellate Judges:

Division Four
Alok Ahuja, C.J. Presiding, James Edward Welsh, J., and Patrick Campbell, Sp. J.

Attorneys:

Amy Bartholow, Columbia, MO

Counsel for Appellant

Attorneys:

Karen Kramer, Jefferson City, MO

Counsel for Respondent

**MISSOURI APPELLATE COURT OPINION SUMMARY
MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS, WESTERN DISTRICT**

**STATE OF MISSOURI, Respondent, v.
TONY RAY KING, Appellant**

WD76667

Buchanan County

Before Division Four Judges: Ahuja, C.J. Presiding, Welsh, J., and Campbell, Sp. J.

Tony King was charged with first-degree murder, first-degree child abuse, and second-degree arson. The State alleged that over a two-month period King had repeatedly physically abused his seven-year-old son ("Son"), had then caused Son's death by strangling or choking him, and had set fire to his own home in order to conceal the murder. King was convicted by a jury on all three counts. The circuit court sentenced King to terms of life without parole and two fifteen-year prison sentences to run consecutively. King appeals.

Affirmed.

Division Four holds:

The State presented sufficient forensic and circumstantial evidence from which a reasonable juror could have found King guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of all three crimes. King fails to establish that the circuit court plainly erred in submitting the verdict director for child abuse. The circuit court did not abuse its discretion in admitting evidence about the carbon monoxide levels in Son's blood because a sufficient foundation and chain of custody was established for the blood evidence. The circuit court did not abuse its discretion in excluding statements made by Son's mother because King's proffered evidence did not establish a "direct connection" between her and the arson or the murder. King's convictions and sentences are affirmed.

Opinion by James Edward Welsh, Judge

January 27, 2015

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