

Douglas Kennedy Acquitted of Child Endangerment Charges

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Douglas Kennedy, the second-youngest son of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, has been [acquitted of child endangerment and physical harassment](#). Kennedy was accused of endangering his newborn son and assaulting two nurses who tried to stop him from taking the baby outside of the hospital.

On January 7 2012, Kennedy wanted to take his 2-day-old son outside to see the moon, something he had been allowed to do at the same hospital before. When two nurses, Anna Margaret Lane and Cari Luciano tried to stop him from leaving with the child, Kennedy insisted and made his way to the elevator anyways. Luciano claims that Kennedy kicked her, causing her to fall down, when she tried to reach for the child, and Lane says that he twisted her arm. The scuffle was caught on a surveillance tape; the tape hardly supports either of the nurses' statements. While the tape reveals one woman falling down, it doesn't support any of the violence claims against Kennedy.

It is now suspected that the nurses were motivated by money and blatantly lied during their testimonies in court. In response to Kennedy leaving with his child, a series of alarms were set off, including a code pink which signals a child abduction; Kennedy's attorney noted that this was "preposterous" as it was "abundantly apparent that the nurses understood it was not the intent of [Kennedy] to leave the hospital with the child and not return."

[A.R.S. 13-2907.02](#) states that it is illegal for a person to knowingly and intentionally make a false report of child abuse or neglect if that person knows that the report is false. While Kennedy is not pressing charges against the nurses, they may have been convicted of false reporting of child abuse/neglect (a class 1 [misdemeanor](#)) if tried in Arizona.

As you can see from the case above, it is common for innocent and law-abiding people to be convicted of crimes they never committed.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.

Founded in 1983, JacksonWhite P.C. offers a full -range of services to assist individuals, families and businesses with their legal needs. Since its inception, the Mesa firm has grown steadily to include 22

highly experienced attorneys and over 40 paralegals, legal assistants and staff. At this size, the firm is large enough to offer the efficiency and technical expertise of larger firms, yet small enough to provide clients with individualized, personalized attention. JacksonWhite has multiple offices around the state of Arizona including a Mesa, Casa Grande and Peoria locations. For more information on a specific attorney or area of practice, please visit www.jacksonwhitelaw.com, or www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law.
