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From The Times

March 03, 2007

Couple cleared of killing adopted son with salt overdose



Dominic Kennedy

A couple who were jailed for killing a boy with salt cleared their names yesterday as their lawyer urged prosecutors to stop bringing cases that hinge on expert medical evidence.

Ian and Angela Gay endured 15 months in prison as hated child-killers, but they were acquitted of manslaughter and cruelty to Christian Blewitt, 3, after a retrial.

Their four-year battle to prove their innocence ended when a fresh expert emerged to say that the boy might have been suffering from a rare intolerance to salt, as reported in *The Times* last April.

The couple hugged in the dock after being acquitted. "Finally justice has been done," Mrs Gay said outside Nottingham Crown Court.

Bill Bache, their solicitor, said that they had been through the most appalling nightmare and urged prosecutors to rethink the handling of mysterious child deaths. "There has been a succession of cases brought on the basis of medical evidence which is not clear-cut because very often it's on the edge of medical science and we still don't know all the answers," he said "I don't think these kinds of cases should come to court. They are so equivocal in terms of science that I think people should leave them alone right at the beginning rather than to put people through all this trauma."

He said of the couple: "Their experience has been absolutely terrible, having spent some time in prison, where they were subjected to appalling threats and abuse. Thank goodness it's all over for them." He said that the Gays now just wanted to "get away and fall apart a bit".

Prosecution sources responded by pointing out that their case against the Gays was that the couple had physically put the high level of sodium into the child. It was the defence that had brought expert evidence into the courtroom to provide a medical explanation.

died on his natural mother's lan in December 2002

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