

Couple fined RM20,000 each for child abuse

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KAJANG: A husband and wife were fined RM20,000 each by the Bandar Baru Bangi Sessions Court for abusing their four-year-old adopted daughter.

Sessions Court judge Effandi Nazila Abdullah passed sentence on trader Amira Hamzah, 28, and her Singaporean husband Muhammad Fitri Jasmani Josmani, 30, after both pleaded guilty to abusing the child until she suffered physical injuries.

They committed the offence at their home in Eco Majestic, Semenyih, at 1.25pm between April and July 18.

The couple were charged under Section 31(1)(a) of the Child Act 2001, which carries a maximum fine of RM50,000 or up to 20 years in jail or both upon conviction.

The court also ordered Amira and Muhammad Fitri to serve 12 months in jail if they fail to pay the fine.

Deputy public prosecutor Hakim Amir Abdul Hamid appeared for the

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Muhammad Fitri Jasmani
Josmani

prosecution while the couple were not represented.

Earlier during mitigation, they pleaded for a minimum sentence and told the court they had no intention to abuse the victim.

“We did not intend to abuse her. Actually, we were making sure she ate so that she would not be malnourished,” Muhammad Fitri said.

DPP Hakim Amir asked the court to

impose a jail sentence and a fine as the couple had been cruel to the child.

“The injuries sustained by the victim were found in several places. This act will traumatise her for life; she should have been cared for with attention and love,” the prosecutor said.

Based on the statement of facts, an employee of Amira had seen her hit the child using a clothes hanger and a broomstick.

The employee brought the matter to Amira’s mother-in-law’s attention, but it was not heeded, and the employee was scolded by the woman.

A police investigation found that the victim, who called Amira “mummy”, was beaten on her body.

Two doctors from Hospital Kajang confirmed the injuries sustained by the child and corroborated the police report lodged by the employee.

Recently, a video became viral, showing a woman hitting a toddler with a broomstick when the child refused to eat rice at a house.