

Child killer's lawyer appeals sentence

HALIFAX — Counsel for a convicted child murderer has argued that fixed minimum sentences violate the Charter of Rights.

Craig Garson, lawyer for Christopher Allan Mitchell — the former Canadian navy seaman who pleaded guilty to killing 27-month-old Kyle Sarty in Halifax last year — argued the point yesterday at Mitchell's appeal hearing on his sentencing.

Mitchell, 22, was sentenced in February to life in prison with no parole for 15 years after he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for killing Kyle, the son of his girlfriend.

Kyle Sarty was sexually abused and beaten repeatedly in the months before his June 1986 death.

The child's mother, Georgina Catherine Sarty, 23, of Halifax, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in her son's death and was sentenced to eight years in prison.