

DETROIT: MAN IDENTIFIED BY TIPSTERS CHARGED WITH CHILD ABUSE

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A Detroit man police say was caught on surveillance tape smacking, kicking and stepping on a toddler inside a convenience store was arraigned Sunday on child abuse charges.

Joseph Gray, 27, was turned in by tipsters who saw parts of the Dec. 21 videotape on television.

Detroit police released some of the video to the local media in hopes of tracking down the man who is seen at one point slamming a child's head into the glass of a cooler door.

Police did not release the name of the convenience store, but said it was on Fenkell.

"When the video aired, our department was flooded with tips," said police spokesman James Tate.

The department's southwestern district took the tip that led to Gray, who was arrested at a relative's house in Detroit.

Gray has acknowledged that he is the man in the tape, Tate said.

Gray was at the store with the 19-month-old son of his girlfriend, police said. After the beating, the man is seen leaving the boy behind in the store aisle. The boy, bundled up for winter, pulls himself up and follows Gray.

The boy appears to be OK, police said.

Gray faces charges of second- and third-degree child abuse. He was arraigned by video from the Wayne County Jail. A preliminary hearing has been set for Jan. 17.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Police say the man seen on this Dec. 21 store surveillance videotape is **Joseph Gray**, 27, of Detroit.

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