

Matthew Ryan Rademacher — Short Historical Summary

Compiled Sept 22, 2026 (ET) | Public-source research only | Not legal advice

Identity (public record)

Matthew Ryan Rademacher (also styled Matthew R. Rademacher) of **Clarksville, Ionia County, Michigan**. News accounts placed his age at about **27** at arrest (Sept 2020) and about **29** at sentencing (Jan 2022), implying a birth year near **1992–1993**. No reliable public biography of early life, education, or employment was found outside the criminal case coverage. A fuller private life history is **not published** in the sources used.

Prior record noted at bond hearing (2020)

At arraignment, Ionia County Prosecutor Kyle Butler told the court Rademacher was on probation for a **2019 misdemeanor stalking** case and alleged a history of substance abuse. Bond was denied by Magistrate David Wirth; a no-contact order as to the child's family was entered.

Death of Colton Sceviour (Sept 18, 2020)

On the morning of **Sept 18, 2020**, emergency responders were called to a home in the **200 block of West Ferney Street, Clarksville**, for a report that 2-year-old **Colton Sceviour** was choking and not breathing. Colton was taken to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids and died. The Kent County Medical Examiner reported cause of death as **cranial-cerebral trauma**. Rademacher was the live-in boyfriend of Colton's mother, **Sydney Sceviour**, and was home as caregiver that day. He reported choking on food; prosecutors said first responders found no food in the airway and that medical findings included bruising and evidence of blood outside the skull.

Charges, trial, and sentence

- Arrested Sept 18, 2020; warrant the next day; charged with **first-degree (felony) murder** and **first-degree child abuse**.
- Entered not-guilty pleas; held without bond.
- Jury verdict (Ionia County 8th Circuit, Hon. **Ronald J. Schafer**): **guilty** on both counts, **November 2021**.
- Sentencing **Jan 25, 2022**: **life without parole** for first-degree murder; **15–25 years** concurrent for first-degree child abuse (452 days jail credit); costs \$1,826; no contact with Colton's family. At sentencing Rademacher denied responsibility; the prosecutor stated Rademacher tested positive for methamphetamine the day of the death.

Post-conviction / appellate status (as of research date)

Counsel indicated appeal or new-trial motions at sentencing. Colton's father, Daniel Sceviour, later stated publicly (GoFundMe, May 2025) that a judge granted a **re-trial** based on defense **misrepresentation / ineffective assistance**, with timing expected late 2025 or early 2026. A Michigan Court of Appeals matter captioned **People of MI v. Matthew Ryan Rademacher**, docket **376370** (opinion discussion dated **Aug 19, 2026** in secondary legal databases), addresses exclusion of **Ginther-hearing** (ineffective-assistance) expert testimony in the context of a **future trial**. As of Sept 22, 2026, open news sources retrieved for this PDF did **not** confirm a final retrial verdict or a new sentence. Treat the original 2021–2022 conviction and sentence as historically entered, and later proceedings as **ongoing / incompletely reported** unless a court order is checked.

What public sources do *not* show

No verified public CV, military record, school record, or detailed family tree was located. County-jail daily boards and MDOC OTIS snapshots were not captured for this short summary. Youth / juvenile history: not published in the sources used.

Primary sources consulted

1. Ionia Sentinel-Standard (Evan Sasiela), Jan 25–26, 2022 — sentencing report.
2. FOX 17 (Gabriel Rogers) — verdict coverage (homicide & 1st-degree child abuse; Hon. Ronald J. Schafer).

3. WOODTV.com — arraignment / felony murder & 1st-degree child abuse (Clarksville; age 27).
4. Law & Crime — charging and conviction summaries (bond denial; 2019 stalking probation; substance-abuse allegations).
5. GoFundMe (Daniel Sceviour, May 2025) — father's statement that a re-trial was granted; expense context only.
6. Secondary legal databases referencing COA No. 376370 (Aug 19, 2026 Ginther-hearing testimony discussion).

Caution: This is a short factual digest from news and secondary legal indexes. It is not a complete court file. For ministry, visitation, or advocacy, verify current custody, charges, and case status directly with Ionia County Circuit Court and MDOC. Treat the child's memory with reverence; do not sensationalize.