



NEWS RELEASE

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ADDITIONAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST PASSAIC MAN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING CHILD

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY: March 25, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Esq., and Passaic Police Chief Daniel Paton, announce that additional charges have been filed against 22 year-old Passaic, New Jersey resident, Akel A. Ackie.

Mr. Ackie has been charged with one count of Murder, one count of Felony-Murder, and one count of Aggravated Sexual Assault. The Murder charges are first degree offenses each carrying a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The aggravated sexual assault charge is a first degree offense with a maximum sentence of 20 years in New Jersey State Prison.

Mr. Ackie, who is unemployed, was charged in the early morning of Sunday, March 21, 2010 with one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and one count of Aggravated Assault, both crimes of the second degree. Each offense carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in the New Jersey State Prison.

The joint investigation was conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, the Passaic Police

Department, and the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

The case began when Passaic Police and Emergency Medical Services responded to 137 Ninth Street in Passaic, New Jersey at approximately 4:00 PM on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The defendant, Mr. Ackie, had been caring for a 21 month-old female (D.L.) in the child's home. The defendant is a friend of D. L.'s mother. The child was not responsive when she was transported by ambulance to Saint Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Paterson, New Jersey. D.L. arrived at the hospital's emergency room in respiratory distress and was later diagnosed with significant brain injury. D.L. remained in critical condition until Tuesday, March 23, 2010 when she died at approximately 2:20 p.m. Upon evaluation by the Saint Joseph's Hospital Child Protection and Safety Center, D.L. was diagnosed as having been sexually abused. The investigation is continuing.

Akel A. Ackie is being detained in the Passaic County Jail. Passaic County Superior Court Judge Thomas J. LaConte has set bail at \$1,000,000.

Any inquiries may be directed to Passaic County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Joseph A. Del Russo. He can be reached at 973-837-7636 or jdelrusso@passaiccountynj.org.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.