



NEWS RELEASE

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PASSAIC MAN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING CHILD

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY: March 21, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Esq., and Passaic Police Chief Daniel Paton, announce the arrest of 22 year-old Passaic, New Jersey resident, Akel A. Ackie.

Mr. Ackie, who is unemployed, was charged 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. Mr. Ackie was arrested in the early morning of Sunday, March 21, 2010.

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., who remains in critical condition, continues to be treated and evaluated.

Akel A. Ackie is being detained in Passaic pending transfer to the Passaic County Jail. Passaic Municipal Judge Xavier Rodriguez has set bail at \$500,000. The investigation is continuing and may result in additional charges.

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.