



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes

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ARREST MADE IN DEATH OF NEW BORN

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Paterson, NJ

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announced the arrest last night of a 22 year old Wayne woman, Keri Barry, in connection with the death of her newborn child on Friday, December 12, 2009.

On December 12, 2009, Ms. Barry gave birth to a full term baby boy at her home in Wayne. Ms. Barry was alone at the time, and made no attempt to seek medical attention. An autopsy determined the child to be a healthy full-term baby boy, and born alive. When Ms. Barry's family learned that something was physically wrong with her, they took her to Chilton Hospital in Pompton Plains, where hospital staff realized she had recently given birth. As the whereabouts of the child were not known, the Wayne Police Department was notified, and an investigation was initiated. A consent search of the home was conducted, and garbage bags allegedly containing the afterbirth were located and collected. Upon searching the bags at headquarters, the dead baby was found. The autopsy determined the cause of death to be asphyxiation.

Ms. Barry was formally arrested on the charges of Aggravated Manslaughter, a crime of the first degree, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a crime of the second degree. Aggravated Manslaughter carries a potential maximum sentence of up to 30 years in prison, while Endangering the Welfare of a Child carries a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison. Bail has been set in the amount of \$200,000. It is anticipated that Ms. Barry's first appearance in court on this charge will be early next week, and that the case will be presented to a Passaic County grand jury for their consideration.

The case is being handled by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Robert C. Pringle.

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