



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
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46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
Subject: Sarah Styhl  
Date: June 11, 2019

**Sarah Styhl Arrested**

*Muncie Indiana* – On June 8 2019, Sarah Styhl was arrested by Investigator Amoreena Kesler of the Muncie Police Department for the offense of Neglect of a Defendant Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. On June 10, 2019, Delaware County Circuit Court No. 3 Judge Linda Ralu Wolf found that probable cause exists for said arrest and set bail at \$50,000 pursuant to the local bail schedule.

The Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest is a public document. Due to the high volume of requests for copies of the Affidavit, it is attached hereto and posted on the Prosecutor's Office Web Page under Press Releases.

It is important to remember that an arrest and/or the filing of a criminal charge is simply an allegation and is not evidence of guilt. All suspects are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

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2387

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 )  
DELAWARE COUNTY )

IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS

2019 TERM

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

COMES NOW, **Amoreena Kesler**, a police officer of the Muncie Police Department, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant, upon the charge(s) and circumstances hereinafter stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

**MPD Case Report #19- 23947**

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Sarah Ann Styhl

D.O.B.: 9-6-1986

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: 310 E Charles Muncie, In

DATE OF ARREST: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

TIME OF ARREST: **6pm**

CHARGE 1 Neglect of a Dependent (Resulting in Death) a Level 1 Felony

CHARGE 2

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said Arrestee committed the aforesaid offense (s) are as follows:

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at approximately 10:44am, an employee of the YWCA(located at 310 E Charles) called 911 reporting that a resident was reporting her 3 month old baby was unresponsive. Witness 1 reported that he saw that back of the infant's head and it appeared to be gray.

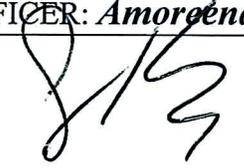
Paramedics arrived and immediately took the infant to IU Ball Memorial. The baby was pronounced dead at the hospital. Officers, nurses, and others involved reported that the infant had what appeared to be burns covering most parts of her body. The child's right upper arm was wrapped in a bandage. Upon further visual inspection of the child, there were different degrees of skin peeling usually associated with burn injuries. There was a large injury to the infant's buttocks and vaginal area. This area was purple and seeping what appeared to be blood. This injury appeared to be something that would resemble a large blood blister or burn blister. The child also appeared malnourished.

I myself have observed photographs taken of the child upon arrival at the hospital. I also noted large depression marks to the right arm where that medical bandage was originally. I noted skin peeling from mostly all areas of the body in some degree (including the face). I noted a depression mark or injury to the right wrist.

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

/s/ OFFICER: **Amoreena Kesler, MPD 0102**

DATE: **6/8/2019**



We were able to obtain results from a skeletal survey conducted post mortem at IU Ball. The results of the survey show “Extensive skeletal trauma.” There was acute displaced fractures of the mid right humeral and mid right radial diaphysis as well as an acute nondisplaced oblique fracture through the left humeral diaphysis. The report stated there were classic metaphyseal lesions (sometimes referred to as bucket fractures) involving “All four” of the child’s extremities. The report stated these injuries were in the various forms of healing.

A further review of all medical documents and testing will have to be done by a medical professional to confirm the cause of the skin injuries.

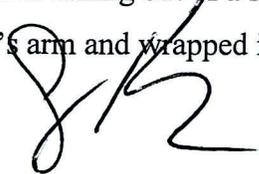
A search of the room in which the mother and the child were staying was conducted. This was done with signed consent of the mother. I noted at least two bottles of “Burn Spray” in the room. I saw several diaper rash ointments and Icy Hot patches. There is no cooking area in this room. There is no bath tub in this room. I noted what appeared to be a liquid and food substance on the wall at the head of the bed. I noted a red stain on the bed sheet that appeared to be blood. I left the scene to continue the investigation. Crime scene investigators remained to process the room.

The mother was interviewed by Investigator Joe Journey alone and then by myself and Investigator Journey.

Sarah stated that since she arrived at the YWCA four days prior. She noticed an irritation around the baby’s mouth and face. Sarah named several different ointments and lotions that she used to treat this. She stated that this spread over the baby’s face and she thought the infant was having an allergic reaction. Sarah never talked about the disturbing areas of injury on her infant’s body. I brought photographs of the infant in to show Sarah. I showed her the one particular photograph of the unexplained injury near the child’s buttocks/vaginal area. Sarah stated that she had never seen that injury even though she stated several times she changed the infant’s diaper at least once today. Sarah then became argumentative when confronted with the fact that there was no way she had not been aware of these skin injuries. She asked for an attorney at that time.

Sarah was previously asked why she had not sought medical treatment for the skin injuries. Sarah stated that her child did not have health insurance. She stated she did not take the child to the hospital because hospitals were more for emergency situations.

Sarah also talked about the bandage to the infant’s arm. She told a few different stories about the child falling out of a stroller several weeks prior. Sarah stated she put an Icy Hot pad on the child’s arm and wrapped it with a bandage for treatment.



I met with crime scene investigators after the scene was released. I was shown several articles of the infant's clothing that were found in the room. I noted that most of the clothing appeared to have fluid stains on areas that would be associated with the area of injury on the infant's body. There were also burping pads and other items found that had what appeared to be blood on them.

Two employees of the YWCA gave statements. Witness 2 stated she did an informal intake process with mother and child on Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 between 12pm and 2pm. This employee did not note any visible injury to the infant's face. She did state that the infant was wrapped in a blanket and wearing a hat. Witness 2 confirmed that mother stated her child had active health insurance. Witness 2 talked with mother about the Open Door Clinic and their programs for people without health insurance. Witness 2 stated she told mother where Open Door was (within walking distance). Witness 3 was interviewed by phone. She stated she saw mother and baby on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 between 7pm and 9pm. She stated that she interacted with mother and baby. She noted no injury to the child's face or head. She also stated the child was wrapped in a blanket and wearing something on her head (headband).

Mother reported that she has been the only person to care for her child since birth. She stated no one has cared for her child, "Even for 5 minutes."

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

/s/ OFFICER: *Amorenda Kesler, MPD 0102*

DATE: 6/8/2019



**JUDICIAL DETERMINATION**

The undersigned, being a Judicial officer of Delaware County, and having reviewed the foregoing affidavit, now determines that probable cause existed for the arrest of said arrestee, and now fixes bond in the penal sum of \$ 50,000.00 cash bond or surety bond

DATED: 06/10/2019

SIGNED: *Erica Rob Wolf* Judge of Delaware Circuit 3

CHARGES TO BE FILED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT