



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
ERIC M. HOFFMAN, PROSECUTOR  
46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

100 W. MAIN STREET, ROOM 312  
MUNCIE, IN 47305

TELEPHONE 765-747-7801  
FAX: 765-747-7830

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
Subject: Sarah Styhl  
Date: June 13, 2019

**Sarah Styhl Formally Charged by Prosecutor**

*Muncie Indiana* – On today's date I have formally charged Sara Styhl with two counts of Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. Both counts allege the neglect and death of the same child; they are simply alternate methods to charge the crime. Pursuant to Indiana Law, a person convicted of a Level 1 Felony faces a sentencing range 20 to 40 years in prison. I have attached the charging documents as well as the Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest. The case has been filed in the Delaware County Circuit Court No. 3, the Honorable Judge Linda Ralu Wolf presiding. It is anticipated that this matter will be set for initial hearing on Monday, June 17, 2019. Any questions with regard to the time of the hearing should be directed to the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3. Bail was originally set at \$50,000. On June 12, 2019 bail was increased to \$100,000.

Sara Styhl is the only suspect in this case.

There have been many inquires as to the cause and manner of death. First and foremost, although investigators have been in communication with the forensic pathologist, the formal autopsy report containing, among other things, the cause and manner of death, will not be issued until the completion of toxicology analysis and other scientific tests. Secondly, Rule 3.6(d)(3) of the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct prohibits an attorney from publically making a statement regarding the "...results of any examination or test..." Therefore, I cannot publically release the cause and manner of death unless such information is contained within a document filed with the Court or discussed in a Court proceeding.

Despite the fact that formal charges have been filed, this case is very much an ongoing investigation. Theoretically, should additional information be uncovered during the course of the investigation, additional charges could be filed.

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.

The ethical rules for prosecutors in Indiana prohibit further comment on this matter. At this time, there will be no further comment.

###

**APPEARANCE FORM (CRIMINAL)  
State of Indiana**

Case Number: 18C03-1906-F1

1. Name of Defendant: Sarah Ann Styhl
2. Case Type of proceeding: Level Felony
3. Prosecuting Attorney Information:

Name: Eric M. Hoffman      Attorney No. 24232-18  
Address: 100 W. Main St.      Phone: (765) 747-7801  
                 Muncie, IN 47305      FAX: (765) 747-7830  
Email: ehoffman@co.delaware.in.us

4. Will the State accept service by FAX: No
5. Arresting Agency: Muncie Police Department
6. Arrest report number (Originating Agency Case Number): 19-23947
7. Transaction Control Number: 1810071148  
State I.D. Number: Not Available
8. Related cases: 18C03-1906-MC-714, 18C03-1906-MC-700, 18C03-1906-MC-701, 18C03-1906-MC-703
9. Additional information required by state or local rules:

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF DELAWARE )

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 3  
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C03-1906-F1

INFORMATION:

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

SARAH ANN STYHL

YWCA  
310 E. Charles Street  
Muncie, IN 47305

DOB: 9/6/1986  
SSN: XXX-XX-0782

Count 1:  
Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in  
Death  
I.C. 35-46-1-4(a)(1) and I.C. 35-46-1-4(b)  
(3)  
a Level 1 Felony

Count 1:

The undersigned says that between June 1, 2019 and June 8, 2019 in Delaware County, State of Indiana, Sarah Ann Styhl, being at least 18 years of age and having the care of Shea Styhl, a dependent less than 14 years of age, did knowingly place said dependent in a situation that endangered the dependent's life or health, which resulted in the death of Shea Styhl contrary to the form of the statutes in such cases made and provided by I.C. 35-46-1-4(a)(1) and I.C. 35-46-1-4(b)(3) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

BY: /s/ Eric M. Hoffman  
Eric M. Hoffman 24232-18  
Prosecuting Attorney  
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF DELAWARE )

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 3  
CAUSE NUMBER. 18C03-1906-F1

INFORMATION:

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

SARAH ANN STYHL

YWCA  
310 E. Charles Street  
Muncie, IN 47305

Count 2:  
Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in  
Death  
I.C. 35-46-1-4(a)(3) and I.C. 35-46-1-4(b)  
(3)  
a Level 1 Felony

DOB: 9/6/1986  
SSN: XXX-XX-0782

Count 2:

The undersigned says that between June 1, 2019 and June 8, 2019 in Delaware County, State of Indiana, Sarah Ann Styhl, being at least 18 years of age and having the care of Shea Styhl, a dependent less than 14 years of age, did knowingly deprive said dependent of necessary support, to-wit: medical care which resulted in the death of Shea Styhl contrary to the form of the statutes in such cases made and provided by I.C. 35-46-1-4(a)(3) and I.C. 35-46-1-4(b)(3) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Indiana.

BY: /s/ Eric M. Hoffman  
Eric M. Hoffman 24232-18  
Prosecuting Attorney  
46th Judicial Circuit of Indiana

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT 3  
 ) SS:  
COUNTY OF DELAWARE ) CAUSE NUMBER. 18C03-1906-F1

STATE OF INDIANA

VS

SARAH ANN STYHL

**State of Indiana's Witness List**

Leah Boren  
Bryce Campbell  
Jolene R. Clouse M.D.  
Donald Corea M.D.  
Courtney Demetrius M.D.  
Kristopher M. Duncan  
Joseph Journay  
Sheila Kearney  
Amoreena Kesler  
Codi Kidd  
John Kindler D.O.  
Ronald W. Miller  
Megan Murphy  
Jeffrey A. Pease  
Kevin Pierce  
Scott Sherwood  
Gregory Skaggs  
Damon Stovall  
Jenny Willard

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.

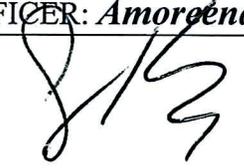
Paramedics arrived and immediately took the infant to IU Ball Memorial. The baby was pronounced dead at the hospital. Officers, nurses, and others involved reported that the infant had what appeared to be burns covering most parts of her body. The child's right upper arm was wrapped in a bandage. Upon 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**



STATE OF INDIANA )  
 )  
DELAWARE COUNTY )

IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS

2019 TERM

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.

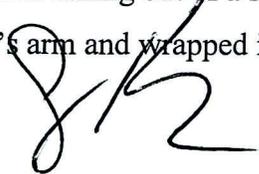
A search of the room in which the mother and the child were staying was conducted. This was done with signed consent of the mother. I noted at least two bottles of “Burn Spray” in the room. I saw several diaper rash ointments and Icy Hot patches. There is no cooking area in this room. There is no bath 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 Journay alone and then by myself and Investigator Journay.

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.



STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURTS  
 )  
DELAWARE COUNTY ) 2019 TERM

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 Moly* Judge of Delaware Circuit 3

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

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT