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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
Date: July 6, 2020

**Sarah Styhl Pleads Guilty as Charged  
to Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death**

*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 existed for said arrest.

On June 11, 2019, I 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 and prove the crime. Even if convicted of both counts at trial, judgment of conviction could only be entered and the Defendant sentenced on one of the counts.



On today's date, Sarah Styhl pled guilty as charged to Neglect of a Dependent Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony. The charge was not reduced nor did the State agree to place any sentencing limitations on the court. During the hearing, Styhl admitted, among other things, that she knew her three (3) month old daughter had broken bones and burns on her skin, that she failed to seek medical care for those injuries, and that those injuries resulted in the child's death. Styhl testified that she suffered from "blackouts" and did not know or remember how the infant sustained multiple broken bones and burns on her skin. Styhl's plea of guilty was taken under advisement by the Honorable Judge Linda Ralu Wolf, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 3 pending a plea acceptance and sentencing hearing which is currently set for Monday July 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. If the plea is accepted by the Court, Styhl faces a fixed sentence between 20 – 40 years. Under current Indiana law she would be required to serve 75% of the sentence imposed.

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 or until a plea of guilty is accepted by the court. The ethical rules for prosecutors in Indiana prohibit further comment on this matter. At this time, there will be no further comment.

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