



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Woman Charged with Aggravated Child Abuse – 2024-00231892

Date: August 28, 2024

On 08-25-24, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) was notified by the Tampa Police Department (TPD) that they, TPD, were currently on scene at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital investigating a child abuse case.

Upon arrival at St. Joseph's, TPD officers learned the child had been injured at a residence on Woodbury Road in Spring Hill. It was also learned the child had originally been taken to Oak Hill Hospital and was air-lifted to St. Joseph's for specialized treatment.

Detective J. Mitro responded to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, while Detective T. Chavez responded to Oak Hill Hospital.

Upon arrival at Oak Hill Hospital, Detective Chavez spoke to nursing staff who advised a one-month-old infant had been brought into the emergency department with "injuries." The nurse immediately observed an injury to the infant's head, due to severe swelling. During diagnostic testing and medical scans, the infant's head continued to swell.

The nurse then spoke to the female who brought the infant to the hospital, who was identified as Arianna Renee Hamilton, 19, of Spring Hill. Hamilton told the nurse that while changing the infant's diaper, the infant rolled off the bed and was injured by impacting the floor.

Meanwhile, medical scans revealed the infant was suffering from several skull fractures, which required advanced and specialized care; therefore, the infant was air-lifted to St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa.

Additional scans were performed at St. Joseph's, which revealed the previously noted skull fractures, along with fractures to both shins and both femurs, and a collarbone fracture. All injuries noted were in various stages of healing, meaning they happened at different times.

The infant was listed in critical condition.

Detective Mitro spoke with Hamilton at St. Joseph's Hospital. Hamilton reiterated that while changing the infant on the bed, she let go "with both hands" and the infant fell off the bed onto the hardwood floor.

Hamilton advised she was "too scared" to call 9-1-1, so she packed a baby bag and took the infant to Oak Hill Hospital.

When asked about the other injuries on the infant, Hamilton was unable to provide a reason for the numerous fractures.

Detective Mitro then spoke with another family member, who reportedly witnessed Hamilton yelling at the infant for constantly crying. Hamilton reportedly told this same family member that she wished the infant was not in her care.

Detective Mitro then spoke with another family member, who produced photos, taken on different dates, of injuries on the infant. This family member confronted Hamilton about the injuries. Again, Hamilton was unable to provide a reason for how the infant obtained the injuries.

The photos provided were taken on 08-06-24, 08-09-24, 08-13-24, and 08-20-24. Each photo included a new injury, including lacerations, bruising, and swelling.

All persons who had responsibility to care for the infant told detectives the injuries did not occur while the infant was in their care.

The physician treating the infant explained to Detective Mitro that several of the fractures appeared to be in different stages of healing, which would indicate "ongoing abuse."

Additional scans are needed to confirm if the skull fractures/brain bleed are in the healing process.

Detectives executed a search warrant at the Woodbury Road address.

The bed where the infant was reportedly being changed did not show any signs of a recent diaper change, nor were there any dirty clothes and/or diapers disposed of in either of the garbage cans in the room. All items used to change a baby were located in another room.

On 08-26-24, physicians at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital confirmed the injuries to the infant were not accidental and were, in fact, child abuse.

On 08-27-24, Arianna Renee Hamilton was interviewed by detectives. Hamilton admitted to becoming frustrated and squeezing the infant too hard, causing the fractures.

The Department of Children and Families issued a safety plan.

Arianna Renee Hamilton DOB/01-19-2005 was placed under arrest and charged as follows:

- Aggravated Child Abuse
- Child Neglect
- No Bond.

Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips

If you have information on this case – or any crime, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!

Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or **TIPS from a cell phone.

You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .

You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!