

Salem man arrested in murder of girlfriend's toddler

by Cheryl McDermott

SALEM, Ore. -- A 22-year-old Salem man has been arrested following preliminary investigation into the murder and alleged sexual abuse of his girlfriend's two-year-old daughter, police announced.

Russell Ros of Salem has been charged with murder in connection with the death and alleged sexual abuse of his girlfriend's two-year-old daughter. MCSO photo According to a Salem Police Department news release, Natalia Lee was taken to Salem Hospital late Saturday evening and died shortly after midnight March 9, although no details were provided regarding the manner of her death.

Russell Ros, 22, was baby-sitting Natalia while her mother was out of town, police said, and what officers are calling an "incident" allegedly occurred in an apartment at 3895 Beverly Street NE.

Ros was arrested and lodged in the Marion County Jail. He is charged with murder, first-degree sex abuse, and three counts of first-degree criminal mistreatment, the news release stated.

The criminal mistreatment charges originate from past incidents where Natalia's older brother was allegedly assaulted by Ros. The brother has been placed into protective custody during the investigation, which is ongoing.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to contact Detective Kris Knox at 503.588.6050.

Salem man arrested in murder of girlfriend's toddler by Cheryl McDermott