

Daycare Worker Faces Murder Charges in Toddler's Death

by K_Guice

The case for a daycare worker charged with the murder of a 14-month-old child being cared for in her home is being arraigned June 1st according to the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office.

Katherine Ann Seifert, 25, is being held without bail after being arrested on May 24 on charges of felony murder, manslaughter in the first degree, assault and criminal mistreatment of her niece, Christina Seifert. The toddler was one of five children in Seifert's care.

She allegedly told police she shook the toddler and threw her to the floor, according to a prosecutor at Seifert's first court appearance. According to the state Medical Examiner's Office in Portland an autopsy conducted Thursday, May 25 determined that the child died due to a "closed head trauma."

"The matter of death is homicide," said District attorney Mike Dugan. "This baby was shaken. Shaking of a baby causes closed head injuries."

Police were called to the 400 block of Thurston Ave. on Wednesday, May 24 at approximately 11:45 a.m. after receiving a report of a child not breathing. Officers who arrived on the scene began CPR on the 14-month-old and transported her to St. Charles Medical Center-Bend, where she was later pronounced dead.

If found guilty, Seifert could face 25 years to life for felony murder, a minimum of 10 years for manslaughter in the first degree, a minimum of 70 months for second-degree assault and a maximum of five years for criminal mistreatment.

This tragic story is a reminder of two similar recent cases. In January, 26-year-old John Michael Nilles of Terrebonne was arrested and charged for murder by abuse in the death of his girlfriend's 16-month-old child. The case is still pending

An autopsy determined that the toddler, Maxwell Moore died of a "closed head wound" after suffering "blunt force trauma" to the head.

In nearby Jefferson County a case is pending in the death of four-month-old Jasmine Adele-Coreas. Her father, Pedro Coreas-Castro of Culver was charged last summer for allegedly shaking his daughter to death.

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