

## Woman escapes unborn baby theft plot

by UPI

BLUE SPRINGS, Mo. -- Authorities near Kansas City, Mo., have charged two women with plotting to steal a full-term unborn baby from its mother's body. Police in Blue Springs, Mo., east of Kansas City, said an 18-year-old woman who was nine months pregnant met Monday with two women she had met on the Internet. The woman, whose name was not released, is unemployed and had made an appeal for baby clothes, the Kansas City (Mo.) Star reported. The teenager told officers she tried to use her cell phone to call 911 but one of the women allegedly sprayed her with Mace and then bound her hands before taking her to a motel where she said one of the women sat on her stomach and violently twisted her head. The victim screamed and one of the women called 911, saying the teen was in labor. Police officers separated the group and then charged Lauren Gash, 19, and Alisa Betts, 17, with felony kidnapping. Gash also faces one count of assault, the report said. Gash's family told police the woman had claimed to have delivered a baby during the weekend and had been acting strangely lately.

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