



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

David Leyton, Prosecutor



Severely Abused Toddler Discharged from Hospital Citizens Bank Sets up Fund to Accept Donations

November 27, 2006

FLINT – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton held a press conference today to provide an update to the community on the status of a severely abused 2 ½-year-old toddler who had been left in the emergency room at Genesys Regional Medical Center by her mother on November 3, 2006.



The toddler’s mother, Jessica Ann Lake, 18, and her boyfriend, Christopher L. Rowand, 21, have each been charged with 1st degree Child Abuse for knowingly and intentionally causing severe physical injuries to the toddler. The mother has been ordered to receive a mental forensic examination and the Court granted a continuance on the boyfriend’s case until after the mother’s exam is completed. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for January 16, 2007 in 67th District Court.

The child had at least four dozen different wounds and injuries, including head trauma and cigarette burns, and may have been sexually abused. The child was left in the emergency room and Lake and Rowand were arrested after trying to flee the hospital.

Prosecutor Leyton said that the child spent 12 days on life-support in critical condition at Hurley Medical Center. The toddler’s condition improved to the point where she was discharged from the hospital on Thanksgiving Day and placed with relatives by the State Department of Human Services.

“While we are all thankful and hopeful for the child’s continued recovery, she is by no means out of the woods yet,” said Leyton. “She still has a long way to go both physically and emotionally before we can be assured of her recovery.”



Due to the groundswell of community interest and support in this case, Citizens Bank has set up a fund to accept donations for the toddler. Those interested in contributing may do so at any Citizens Bank branch throughout the state by asking to donate to the “Angel Fund for Gina.”

Prosecutor Leyton attributed the severity of the toddler’s injuries, the manner in which she was simply left in the emergency room by her mother, widespread media

coverage, and the huge heart of the community as the primary reasons why this case has touched the hearts of so many people throughout Genesee County and around the state.

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