

JUDGE ORDERS WOMAN HELD IN TOT'S STARVATION MOTHER, 14, IN YOUTH HOME

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Brought to court for the first time in the starvation death of her seven-month-old granddaughter, **Betty Jane Holloway** told a Detroit magistrate Friday that she didn't understand why she was being held.

But after 36th District Court Magistrate Vesta Svenson carefully explained that she was charged with failing to provide food, sustenance and medical care for the infant, **Holloway** answered, "Yes, ma'am," when asked if she then understood.

Holloway, 39, and her 14-year-old daughter, who gave birth to Jubilee Angelette **Holloway** on Jan. 21 at Henry Ford Hospital, told police the infant subsisted on a diet composed mainly of mashed potatoes, iced tea and milk.

Jubilee died of starvation Tuesday, the medical examiner found. Autopsy results indicate she weighed just three ounces more than her birth weight of six pounds, nine ounces.

Holloway showed no emotion when Svenson ordered her held in the Wayne County Jail in lieu of 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond pending a Sept. 20 preliminary examination on a charge of manslaughter. If convicted, **Holloway** could be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Jubilee's 14-year-old mother is in the Wayne County Youth Home pending a hearing Wednesday to determine whether she also will be charged with manslaughter in the baby's death.

In a related action, the state Department of Social Services is asking Wayne County Juvenile Court to take custody of the 14-year-old girl on grounds that **Betty Jane Holloway** neglected her by failing to make sure the child went to school, by not providing enough food and medical care for the teenager's baby, and by not having heat in her home.

Holloway, her daughter and granddaughter lived in the 14800 block of Ohio on Detroit's west side.

According to police reports filed in 36th District Court Friday, police found little food in the house -- two empty baby bottles in the refrigerator, a nearly empty box of Gerber's baby oatmeal, assorted frozen vegetables in the freezer, 10 white potatoes in a pail and a single sweet potato on the counter.

There was no stove and the gas had been disconnected in the home, the police report said. The family cooked by using an electric skillet, police reported.

A garden hose that ran from the washtub sink to a clothesline in the basement served as a shower, according to the report.

Jubilee slept in a rear bedroom between two couch cushions on the floor, police said.

Neighbors said Friday that they rarely saw **Holloway** and that many did not know there was a baby in the home. One neighbor, 24-year-old Tangie Townsend, said the 14-year-old showed her the infant and said she was her sister.

"I just saw the baby twice. She had her all bundled up in blankets. I asked why it was so small and she said it was premature," Townsend said.

Townsend said she also has a seven-month-old baby and didn't believe neighborhood children who told her that the **Holloway** baby was the same age.

"I said they can't be the same age because her baby was so small," Townsend said.

State DSS Director C. Patrick Babcock said Friday his department was continuing an investigation into why the 14-year-old mother was not receiving any of the intensive services and counseling available to impoverished teenaged mothers in Detroit. Detroit has the second-highest infant mortality rate of any major city in the nation, with 19.9 baby deaths for every 1,000 births.

Babcock said the girl's assistance payments worker had referred her case to a community mental health worker. The DSS worker "made referrals; that tells me she was trying," Babcock said.

Detroit Public Schools officials also were investigating why the 14-year-old, who said she dropped out of the fourth grade in 1984, was not declared a school truant.

A spokesman for Henry Ford Hospital said Friday that no details on how the hospital handled the young mother's post-natal care would be made available to the news media. The girl has told police that a hospital nurse told her to come in for a checkup two weeks after the delivery, but she didn't go in because she had no money for transportation.

CUTLINE

Holloway

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