

FATHER, 24, HELD IN BEATING DEATH OF BABY DAUGHTER

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A 24-year-old Detroit man has been charged with second-degree murder in the beating death Monday of his five-month-old daughter.

Carlos Fanning was ordered held without bond in Wayne County Jail pending an April 6 preliminary examination. He was arraigned Wednesday before Detroit District Court Judge William Hathaway.

A neighbor called police shortly after 9 a.m. Monday when seven-year-old Kywana Jefferson told her she was unable to get a response from her baby sister, Jenine. The two girls and their four-year-old brother, Derik, had been left alone in their flat in the 16500 block of Log Cabin by Fanning, who had taken some documents to the children's mother, Jenhi Jefferson, at a Department of Social Services office.

Police said Fanning, who police identified as the baby's father, lived with Jefferson on Log Cabin, although he gave an address on Parkhurst.

WHEN POLICE arrived they found the baby, Jenine, semiconscious. She was taken to Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital, where she died four hours later.

An autopsy showed she died of multiple injuries, including a fractured skull and a broken rib. The autopsy performed by Dr. Bader Cassin, an assistant Wayne County medical examiner, showed that two ribs had been broken previously.

The skull fracture could not have been caused by a fall, according to homicide Sgt. Jerry Willis, who is in charge of the investigation.

Earlier in March, Jefferson had taken the baby to Children's Hospital for treatment of what she thought was listlessness, police said. The hospital's report does not appear to indicate any injuries.

According to police, Kywana Jefferson's collarbone was broken about a year ago. Police plan to reinvestigate the cause of that injury.

According to court records, Fanning was convicted in 1978 of assault and battery and served 30 days in the Detroit House of Correction, and in 1977 was sentenced to two years' probation after being convicted of cruelty to animals.

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