

## **MOTHER CHARGED IN INFANT TOSSING COUPLE LOST PREVIOUS BABY TO SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME**

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A 26-year-old Detroit woman was **charged** Tuesday with child abuse for allegedly throwing a 4-month-old baby from a car during a drunken fight with her boyfriend.

The **infant** girl was thrown from the car Saturday night while strapped **in** her child seat. She was not injured, but was kept one day at Henry Ford Hospital for observation.

Detroit police said the **infant** 's **mother** , Rochelle Manns, lost a child a year ago **in** what was ruled sudden **infant** death syndrome.

Manns was **charged** with second-degree child abuse and is being held **in** the Wayne County Jail **in** lieu of posting \$25,000 bond. A preliminary examination is set for Nov. 28 **in** 36th District Court **in** Detroit.

Detroit police detectives said Manns had been drinking heavily Saturday with her boyfriend, James C. Johnson, 29, of Detroit. He has not been **charged** .

The couple got into a violent argument, police said, while driving along West Grand Boulevard near Moore Street around 9 p.m..

Police said Johnson got out of the car, but Manns tried to run him over, driving on the boulevard's divider, as her three children were **in** the back seat.

A witness, Dwayne Moss, said that the car stalled, but Manns went after Johnson on foot, and he fended her off and pinned her to the ground twice.

Moss, 18, of Detroit said Johnson let Manns get up, and she flung the rear car door open.

"She grabbed the baby and she slung it about six feet," Moss said.

Moss said he and a friend checked the baby and found her unconscious.

According to the police report, "both **mother** and father were highly intoxicated and out of control." Other witnesses told police that Manns said "she didn't have no kids and she didn't want no kids," according to the report.

Police investigators said that although Manns still was angry with her boyfriend over their baby's death a year ago, the incident that sparked Saturday's dispute stemmed from Manns' belief that Johnson had stolen money from her.

Moss, said Manns "was telling us 'he killed my first baby.' We didn't know what she was talking about. She looked like she was high on drugs or something."

Moss said he carried the baby to a nearby fire station. State child-protection workers placed Manns' sons, ages 3 and 6, with a relative.

Linda Thompson and Anita Banks, Detroit police child-abuse investigators, said the couple's 3-month-old son, James Johnson Jr., died while sleeping **in** the same bed as his parents on Nov. 22, 1999. An autopsy found the cause of death to be from sudden **infant** death syndrome, the detectives said.

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