

DETROIT NEWS BRIEFS

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MOM PLEADS GUILTY IN BABY'S DEATH

A 23-year-old Detroit woman pleaded guilty Monday in the Dec. 8, 2005, suffocation death of her 9-month-old son.

Jessica O'Neal pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of her baby, Malik, under an agreement by which she will be sentenced to 20-30 years in prison. She is to be sentenced May 15 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Ulysses Boykin.

O'Neal admitted smothering Malik because he would not stop crying. She then wrapped his body in a blue plastic trash bag and put it in a cabinet in the basement of the child's paternal grandmother. O'Neal, who was living in the home, said a friend was watching the baby. Eight days later, O'Neal was hospitalized for a diabetic condition and told her doctor that her baby may have been kidnapped. Officers later found the body.

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