

ROMULUS: WOMAN TO STAND TRIAL IN INFANT'S DEATH - DEFENSE SUGGESTS SOMEONE ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE

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A Romulus woman accused of killing her boyfriend's infant daughter was bound over for trial Wednesday on three felony charges, including first-degree murder, during a preliminary exam that at times became emotionally charged.

Judge Brian Oakley of the 34th District Court in Romulus ordered LaTonya Goodlow, 27, to stand trial on charges of first-degree felony murder, involuntary manslaughter and first-degree child abuse in the death of 11-month-old **Kalijah Arlboro**, who was in her care.

Kalijah sustained injuries Aug. 13 and survived briefly on life support before dying.

Oakley also revoked a \$150,000 cash bond that was imposed before the first-degree murder charge was issued.

Susan Rock, Goodlow's attorney, had suggested with her questioning of witnesses that someone else was responsible for the child's fatal injuries.

An autopsy revealed the child had sustained a skull fracture weeks earlier when not in Goodlow's care, but the doctor who performed the autopsy said that injury had no role in **Kalijah**'s death. Goodlow cared for the child with live-in boyfriend William Melchor, **Kalijah**'s father.

Romulus police Detective Joshua Monte testified that Goodlow gave three statements. According to the statements, Goodlow said the child fell off the couch and repeatedly fell onto an armrest as she tried to sit her up. Goodlow said the death was an accident.

The Washtenaw County medical examiner's office concluded that the child had died of traumatic head injuries.

But it was during the defense's questioning of **Kalijah**'s mother, LaToya (Toy) Lewis of Detroit, that outbursts disrupted the courtroom.

"Did you ever refer to her as a bitch?" Rock asked, referring to **Kalijah**.

"No," Lewis said as her voice rose slightly. "Hell no."

Lewis' family members began talking out loud, but order was quickly restored.

Also present were members of Goodlow's family and Melchor's family.

Oakley set Goodlow's arraignment for Oct. 8 in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"I hope she spends the rest of her life in jail for murdering my daughter," Lewis said. "She's a pathological liar."

Lisa Williams of Romulus, Goodlow's mother, said of her daughter, "She's hanging in there. She knows she didn't do anything to this baby."

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