

COUPLE SEEK PEACE AS SUSPECT GOES TO COURT - DAD'S LIVE-IN GIRLFRIEND IS ACCUSED OF ABUSE

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At the Detroit home of Toy and Greg Lewis, they don't have family dinners around the table any more.

Those dinners are just too painful since Toy Lewis' 11-month-old daughter, **Kalijah Arlboro** , was pronounced brain dead on Aug. 14 and disconnected from life support Aug. 16.

But it's how the girl was hurt that haunts the couple.

"I feel empty," Toy Lewis said. "It felt like a nightmare."

Romulus police say LaTonya Goodlow - the live-in girlfriend of the girl's biological father, William Melchor, 39 - violently shook **Kalijah** . Today, Goodlow is to be in 34th District Court in Romulus for a preliminary exam.

Goodlow, 27, of Romulus is charged with first-degree murder, negligent homicide and first-degree child abuse. She is being held in the Wayne County jail in lieu of a \$150,000 bond.

She faces life in prison if convicted.

Police said that Goodlow admits to shaking the child, but claims that **Kalijah** hurt herself. Police said Goodlow told them that the girl repeatedly hit her head against a love seat. She said she took a nap, and when she awoke, **Kalijah** was cold and clammy.

Romulus Police Detective Joshua Monte said Goodlow initially said that **Kalijah** fell off a love seat onto a carpeted floor.

"The injuries just didn't corroborate what she was saying," Monte said.

The preliminary finding of a pathologist's report said **Kalijah** suffered non-accidental blunt force trauma to the head. **Kalijah** had hemorrhaging in her armpits, her eyes and on her back. The imprint of the fabric on the love seat was still on her forehead, something that would require a lot of force, according to the pathologist.

Toy Lewis said that on Aug. 11, she arranged for Melchor, who has a criminal record, to spend a couple of days with his daughter. Melchor could not be reached for comment.

Toy Lewis said there was no reason to believe that **Kalijah** would be in any danger because she had spent time with her father previously.

On Aug. 13, while at her job as a nursing assistant job at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Lewis got a call from Melchor's sister saying that **Kalijah** had been taken to Oakwood Hospital in Wayne.

The child was transferred to C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, where she died.

"I cried. I kissed her. I prayed for her," Toy Lewis said. "I wanted to help her, and I couldn't."

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: LaTonya Goodlow, left, admits shaking **Kalijah** , but says the baby hit herself. Her preliminary exam is today.

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