



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, December 28, 2007
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Arrests in child abuse homicide

Mother and boyfriend arrested in Aug. 13 death of two-year-old girl

Riverside, CA -- Riverside Police investigators and members of the multi-agency Inland Regional Apprehension Team (IRAT) arrested a suspect in a child abuse case that the Riverside County District Attorney's office recently ruled is a homicide.

Chad HARRIS, 25, of Riverside, was arrested Thursday evening, December 27, 2007, at his mother's residence in the 13000-block Rockport in Moreno Valley. Harris did not immediately surrender. Riverside Police and Riverside County Sheriff SWAT officers responded and Harris was taken into custody without further incident. He was booked at Robert Presley Detention Center on a charge of homicide in the Aug. 13 death of two-year-old Affinity Wearing.

The child's mother, Kaori WEARING, 33, of San Diego, was arrested by IRAT agents on Friday morning, December 28, 2007, in San Diego, on charges of child endangerment and being an accessory to a crime, for her part in trying to cover for Harris. She will be booked into the Southwest Detention Center.

Kaori Wearing was seeing Harris while her husband was deployed on active duty with the U.S. Navy. Beginning August 8, she was staying with Harris at his apartment in 1200-block of Blaine Street in Riverside, while getting an elective medical procedure at an office in Huntington Beach.

On August 13, Kaori traveled to Huntington Beach for follow-up treatment, leaving Harris in care of her two daughters, ages 2 and 3, and Harris's niece and nephew.

According to the investigation, when Kaori returned the afternoon of Aug. 13, she found her daughter, Affinity, asleep on Harris's bed. After resting several hours, Kaori checked on Affinity at about 8 p.m. to find her still sleeping, snoring, and running a fever. When Kaori checked again at about 9 p.m., the child had stopped snoring. Kaori discovered that Affinity was not breathing and had a neighbor call 911. The child was transported by ambulance to Riverside Community Hospital where she was pronounced dead. There were no immediate signs of trauma.

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Detectives responding to the hospital noticed small bruises on the girl's arms, face and feet. An autopsy revealed acute head trauma. Back at Harris's residence, Riverside Police Detectives and forensics investigators found an indentation in a bedroom wall that matched the dimensions of Affinity Wearing's head.

Investigation determined that at some point, Harris slammed Affinity's head into the wall and the child slowly died on the bed.

After carefully reviewing the case, the Riverside County District Attorney determined on December 19 that Affinity Wearing's death was a homicide and arrest warrants were issued at that time.

Wearing's husband, who was unaware of the affair with Harris, has custody of the couple's three-year-old surviving daughter and is seeking a divorce.



Chad Harris



Kaori Wearing

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