

### **St. Charles Mother Charged In 10 Week Old Infant Death**

#### **News**

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(STLToday.com) - A woman who police say was in a stupor and high on booze and pot was charged Tuesday with child endangerment in the death of her 10-week-old son last summer.



According to police, Lindsey Jordan Yoder, 31, of the 3600 block of Fairview Drive, was the sole caretaker for her son, Colton Forister, between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on July 18, but she was so impaired she was incapable of caring for him.

The cause of death likely was suffocation, but County Prosecutor Tim Lohmar said because he can't prove how Colton died, he could not charge Yoder with a more serious crime.

When the baby's father, Jason Forister, came to the family's home near St. Charles that evening, he found Yoder on the couch, disoriented and having trouble speaking, police say. He asked Yoder several times where Colton was, but she was unable to respond.

Forister found his son in the master bedroom of the home, lying on his back, motionless on the bed, police say.

Colton was transported to Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital; he had no pulse and was not breathing. He was pronounced dead at 6:44 p.m., according to court documents.

An autopsy estimated that Colton could have been dead for as many as two hours before he was found by his father. It appeared he had been lying on his stomach at the time of his death.

While in the emergency room, Yoder was belligerent with hospital staff and appeared confused, police said. She said she had no memory of how she got on the couch or whether she had changed or fed Colton that day.

Police took a blood sample from Yoder that showed her blood-alcohol level was 0.261 percent; the legal limit for drunken driving is 0.08 percent. She also had a high level of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, that was indicative of significant impairment, police said.

The results show that not only had Yoder been drinking heavily and excessively throughout the day, she had very recently smoked pot, Lohmar said. She was nearly comatose.

Yoder's attorney, John Lynch, said his client adamantly disagrees with some of the information that's been released as far as the facts and circumstances underlying the charges. He declined to comment further.

According to court documents, Colton was the subject of a newborn crisis assessment at the time of his birth because Yoder had tested positive for marijuana use then.

She is currently pregnant, authorities said.

Yoder did not cooperate with the investigation of her baby's death, police said.

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<http://www.kttn.com/kgofm/modules/news/article.php?storyid=111282>

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Lohmar said the delay in filing charges is a result of the time needed to gather the medical records for Colton and the toxicology results for Yoder.

Bail is set at \$10,000, cash only, in the case.