

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

4997 Unami Boulevard, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Theodore F. L. Housel
Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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2 Page(s)

For further information contact:
Madelaine Vitale 609-909 -7855
or 609-457-7359

MAYS LANDING – A 20-year-old Hamilton Township woman entered a guilty plea today to one count of endangering the welfare of a child for discarding her newborn boy in a dumpster at the Sandpiper apartment complex, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Monday.

During a plea hearing Simone Walker acknowledged that on Dec. 27, 2006, she caused harm to her child by wrapping him in a cloth and disposing of him in a dumpster. Although she thought the baby was stillborn, she admitted that her belief was unreasonable, said Assistant Prosecutor Curt Baker, who handled the State's case.

In accordance with the plea agreement, Walker will be sentenced to three years in prison when sentenced on July 17. Superior Court Judge James Isman will preside over the sentencing.

A resident of the apartment complex located at 5303 Harding Highway was throwing out his trash when he heard crying coming from inside a dumpster. He sought help from other people who were in the parking lot, and they pulled a black trash bag out of the dumpster.

When they opened the bag they found the baby inside another trash bag. They took the newborn to a car to get warm and called police. Hamilton Township police officers responded along with an ambulance. The infant was in critical condition and was taken to the hospital. He has since recovered and remains in the custody of his biological father.

Walker was arrested the night of the incident. She was indicted in June 2006 for the crime. She has been out on bail since a month after her arrest. She is subject to a GPS monitoring system.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.