

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – Superior Court Judge James E. Isman sentenced a Hamilton Township woman to 10 years in prison for the death of her two-month-old baby girl, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced Friday.

Tammy Torres, 24, of the 6000 block of Hoover Drive, must serve 85 percent of the prison term. Upon release the defendant will be subject to five years of parole supervision.

On Jan. 23, 2008 at 9:15 a.m. the victim was discovered unresponsive in her crib. Hamilton Township police received a 911 report and responded to the Brandywood Apartments in the Mays Landing section of Hamilton Township. The baby was taken to the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, Mainland Campus in Galloway Township and later transported to A.I. Dupont Hospital in Delaware for critical care. The victim was pronounced dead two days later at the hospital, Prosecutor Housel stated.

An autopsy revealed the baby died of blunt force trauma to the head. Torres was charged shortly after the crime.

During her April 21 plea hearing Torres admitted that she punched her child two times in the head. She further stated that she did so with extreme indifference to the value of human life and acknowledged her baby died of blunt force trauma to the head.

On Friday Assistant Prosecutor Pamela K. D’Arcy told the Court, “Infants are the most vulnerable victims. They have no defense mechanisms, no way to protect themselves from injuries. It is disturbing and devastating to know a mother could punch her baby in the head causing her death.”

Prior to imposing sentencing, Judge Isman stated that even animals have instincts to protect their young, however the defendant did not.

“What a tragic mess this case is,” Judge Isman said.

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.