



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Columbia Woman Found Guilty of Second-Degree Murder and First-Degree Child Abuse in the Death of her Newborn Baby

Howard County, MD (April 27, 2022) – Moira Akers, age 41, of Carved Stone in Columbia was found guilty today by a Howard County Circuit Court jury of second-degree murder and first-degree child abuse from an incident involving the birth of her child in the fall of 2018.

On November 1, 2018, Howard County Police were called to Howard County General Hospital after Akers had been transported from her residence by paramedics. While being transported to the hospital, Akers did not disclose the birth of her newborn to Howard County Fire & EMS personnel who responded to treat her.

Through investigation, it was determined that Akers had recently given birth inside her home. Investigators responded to the house to conduct a check on welfare and located a deceased, male newborn in a zipped plastic bag under a blanket in a closet with the door shut. Akers, when confronted with how the baby was found at that time, then responded that the baby was stillborn.

On November 2nd, 2018, an autopsy was done on Baby Akers and a report was issued in March of 2019 by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner which classified the death as a homicide. The report stated the infant was a healthy, full-term baby and alive at birth. The cause of death was declared as asphyxiation and exposure.

“This was truly one of the most difficult cases my office has ever had to prosecute because we had the burden of proving the baby was born alive,” said State’s Attorney Rich Gibson. “Thanks to the great work of HCPD detectives, our prosecutors, the Office of Chief Medical Examiner and other experts, we were able to prove to a jury that the egregious and unconscionable actions of Ms. Akers ultimately led to the murder of her own child. After three and half years of working on this case, we are grateful the jury found Ms. Akers guilty of this heinous crime and we were able to obtain justice for Baby Akers.”

Akers will be sentenced on July 29, 2022. She could face up to life in prison.

This case was prosecuted by Special Victims Unit Chief Mary V. Murphy and Senior Assistant State’s Attorney Jennifer W. Ritter.

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