



## NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
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### **CHARGES UPGRADED TO HOMICIDE FOR MOTHER ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING 4 MONTH OLD CHILD**

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PROSPECT PARK, NEW JERSEY: April 1, 2013

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Prospect Park Police Chief Charbel B. Atie announce the arrest of Karen M. Stewart in connection with the death of her 4-month-old son.

An investigation by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit revealed that Ms. Stewart assaulted the child during the early morning hours of Sunday, March 24, 2013 when the 4-month-old could not stop crying. The 21-year-old Prospect Park resident was taken into custody at that time and was charged with Aggravated Assault and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Additional charges were being considered pending the results of an autopsy. Ms. Stewart has been now charged with Aggravated Manslaughter.

Aggravated Manslaughter is a first degree crime with a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. Aggravated Assault is a second degree crime with a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison. Endangering the Welfare of a Child is a second degree crime with a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Ms. Stewart's original bail was set by Prospect Park Municipal Judge Joseph C. Perconti at \$200,000 on March 24. The Honorable Raymond Reddin, J.S.C. today ordered that the defendant post an additional \$350,000 on the Aggravated Manslaughter charge.

For media inquiries concerning this investigation contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Joseph A. Del Russo of the Passaic County

Prosecutor's Special Victims Unit at 973-837-7636 or  
jdelrusso@passaiccountynj.org.

**A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this  
accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until  
proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.**