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Bail is reduced for woman charged with killing husband

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An Annapolis District Court judge reduced bail to \$2,500 yesterday for a Severn woman charged with second-degree murder in the stabbing death of her husband Sunday.

Judge Martha F. Rasin cut the bail for Merle Denise Thomas, 32, of the 1800 block of Arwell Court in Pioneer City, from \$350,000 after a hearing.

Ms. Thomas' husband, Steven Bernard Thomas, 32, was stabbed once in the chest about 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Paramedics took him to Kimbrough Army Hospital at Fort Meade, where he was pronounced dead, county police said.

The couple had argued, according to charging documents, and became involved in a shoving match as Ms. Thomas tried to leave the house. Mr. Thomas grabbed his wife by the throat and choked her, the documents say, and she pulled away and went to the kitchen, where Mr. Thomas pushed his wife up against the sink and she grabbed a knife and stabbed him.

Judge Rasin said Ms. Thomas must remain under the supervision of pretrial services, must not leave the state and must be in her home between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Assistant State's Attorney Daryl Jones urged Judge Rasin not to lower Ms. Thomas' bail.