

The Sun, Baltimore, Maryland
The Evening Sun, Baltimore, Maryland
The Sunday Sun, Baltimore, Maryland

Girl indicted in murder attempt

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THE BALTIMORE SUN

January 24, 1995 Page(s): 1B

Edition: ARUNDEL SUN

Section: METRO

Length: 573 words
Record Number: BSUN363996

A 17-year-old girl charged with trying to kill her newborn infant by throwing her out a third-floor window was indicted on a charge of attempted murder yesterday and might have her bail revoked in the next few days.

The indictment of Michelle E. Savage of the 1800 block of Circle Road in Severn by an Anne Arundel County grand jury came nine days after the incident.

State's Attorney Frank R. Weathersbee said he filed a motion in Anne Arundel Circuit Court yesterday to have bail revoked for Ms. Savage, who was released on her own recognizance Jan. 17 by District Judge Martha Rasin.

Judge Rasin ordered Ms. Savage to live with her sister in her Meade Village townhouse while she awaits trial.

The judge also instructed Ms. Savage not to leave the house, which is in the same block as the teen-ager's own home, other than for visits to her lawyer and doctors.

Ms. Savage also was told to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Mr. Weathersbee said yesterday that Judge Rasin's decision was "ridiculous."

"Just to release her without any guarantee that she is going to show up for trial is not an appropriate way to handle this kind of thing," he said.

He said he hopes the bail-revocation motion will be considered in the next few days.

"Anybody that's charged with attempted murder or murder faces a life sentence and is certainly a risk of flight," he said.

Ms. Savage was arrested after police were called to Meade Village, a low-income housing project, about 3:15 p.m. Jan. 14 by three children who said they had found a crying, naked infant, with the umbilical cord still attached, lying on a storm grate.

Police said the 6-pound, 4-ounce baby, was a few hours old when she was thrown from a third-floor window of the apartment Ms. Savage shared with her mother and other relatives.

The baby fell 18 feet and rolled down a grassy knoll, coming to rest on a storm grate between two buildings in the complex.

Two Meade Village girls on their way to a store found the

infant and called for help, police said. The brother of one of the girls wrapped the baby in his sweat shirt, and the youngsters called 911.

The baby suffered several skull fractures, police said.

A spokeswoman for the Anne Arundel Medical Center said yesterday that the baby was in stable condition in the neonatal care unit.

Investigators and prosecutors said they think Ms. Savage gave birth by herself in the bathtub.

Neighbors and friends said that even Ms. Savage's family did not know she was pregnant.

The teen-ager is an 11th-grader at Meade Senior High School.

Evelyn Darden, Ms. Savage's lawyer, did not return phone calls late yesterday.

She told Judge Rasin last week that Ms. Savage was the youngest of seven children, is a "shy, quiet child" and that she "has the mental capacity and personality" of someone younger than 17.

At the time of the incident, Ms. Savage was learning computer keyboarding, Ms. Darden said.

If Ms. Savage remains free pending trial, she will try to continue her schooling, perhaps at night or at home, the attorney said.