



NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION WITH ARREST 1800 BLOCK OF SOUTH KITT PLACE

*****UPDATE – MARCH 12, 2012*****

On March 8, 2012, the Pima County Grand Jury indicted Kiyana Higgins, Keshawna Higgins, and Clara Huyghue on 1st Degree Murder in connection with the death of Kiyana Higgins' 1-year old daughter on January 12, 2012. In addition to failing to care for the victim's basic needs, the indictment also alleges that the three defendants knew, or should have known, that the child needed medical attention, then failed to seek medical attention, resulting ultimately in her death. The indictment is based in part upon evidence presented in the autopsy report from the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner, which ruled the manner of death a homicide ascribed to malnutrition.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – March 12, 2012

*****UPDATE – JANUARY 20, 2012*****

Booking photos for Clara Huyghue and Keshawna Higgins are attached.



Clara Huyghue



Keshawna Higgins

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – January 20, 2012

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*****UPDATE – JANUARY 19, 2012*****

On January 19, 2012, Detectives from the Dependent Child Unit made two additional arrests in this case. Detectives continued to investigate this situation after the arrest of Kiyana Higgins, the mother of the victims. During the continued investigation, detectives developed probable cause to arrest **52-year old Clara Huyghue**, Kiyana's mother and the victims' grandmother, and **25-year old Keshawna Higgins**, Kiyana's sister and the victims' aunt. Personnel with the United States Marshals located and detained them in Tucson today, then turned them over to the Tucson Police Department for continued investigation.

Detectives have determined that Huyghue and Keshawna Higgins live with Kiyana Higgins and her five children. Huyghue was arrested based upon her failure to report the obvious child abuse of the one-year old victim and her three-year old brother. Keshawna Higgins was arrested based on her failure to report the abuse, as well as for physically abusing the victims. Both will be booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center on **two counts each of Child Abuse**, a class two felony.

The three-year old male victim has been released from the hospital into the care of Child Protective Services. He is expected to recover from his injuries. Kiyana's 18-year old vulnerable adult sister has been placed into the care of Adult Protective Services.

Booking photos for Clara Huyghue and Keshawna Higgins will be available tomorrow.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – January 19, 2012

*****UPDATE – JANUARY 13, 2012*****

A booking photo for Kiyana Higgins is attached below.



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Kiyana Higgins

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – January 13, 2012

At approximately 8:45 a.m. on January 12, 2012, the Tucson Fire Department requested assistance from the Tucson Police Department in the 1800 block of South Kitt Place. Officers from Operations Division Midtown responded to the location and determined that Tucson Fire Department personnel had been summoned to the residence after receiving a 911 call regarding child experiencing seizure-like activity. The one-year old girl was unresponsive and was immediately transported by ambulance to a local trauma center. All attempts to revive the child in the ambulance and at the hospital were unsuccessful and she was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Detectives from the Tucson Police Department's Dependent Child Unit responded to continue the investigation, based on physical signs of possible child abuse. In the course of the investigation, detectives determined that a three-year old male sibling also showed physical signs of possible child abuse. That child was transported to a local hospital where he remains in serious condition tonight. Three additional siblings (one male and two female), all under the age of 10, have been placed with CPS for temporary protective custody as the investigation continues.

Detectives continued to investigate this case throughout the day. Late this evening, detectives arrested the biological mother of the children, 23-year old **Kiyana Higgins**, of Tucson. Higgins was booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center on **two counts of Child Abuse**, class 2 felonies, in connection with the suspected abuse of the one-year old girl and her three-year old brother. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death of the one-year old. Additional charges against Higgins are possible as the investigation continues.



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A booking photo will be released as soon as it is available.

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Page 4 of 4

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