

TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
Dennis Watkins, prosecutor

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Mom guilty of involuntary manslaughter in child's overdose death



Aris J. Rice, 32, of 1965 Feederle Drive SE, Warren, pleaded guilty today before Judge Andrew D. Logan of the Trumbull County Common Pleas Court to an amended indictment charging her with third-degree involuntary manslaughter and a first-degree misdemeanor endangering children count.

The case involved the death of Rice's 20-month-old son after the youth had ingested some prescription methadone in September 2023. The child suffered methadone intoxication, cardiac arrest and anoxic brain injury and died at Akron Children's Hospital.

Rice will be sentenced after she undergoes a background investigation conducted by county probation officers. She could face a maximum three-year prison term and Assistant Prosecutor Diane Barber said the state will ask for some sort of confinement at sentencing.

According to a Warren police report, officers and EMTs were called to the home in reference to an unresponsive boy. Police found the toddler not breathing as he lay on a table as officers began performing life-saving techniques.

The child died on Oct. 1 and during the investigation, hospital staff told police a lab report indicated a "certain amount of methadone" was in the child's system.

The plea hearing offset a jury trial for Rice that was scheduled for June 10. Rice will remain free after posting bond until the sentencing hearing which has not yet been scheduled.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, investigator/public information officer for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485 or Guy.Vogrin@co.trumbull.oh.us