



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2019

JOINT PRESS RELEASE – Homicide (400 blk Stanhope, Normal, IL)

Members of the public and media are reminded that this release contains only information of charges and is not proof of a defendant's guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Cynthia Marie Baker (aka: Cynthia Marie Clay), age 41, was indicted by a McLean County Grand Jury on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, for three counts of Murder, one count of Aggravated Battery of a Child and one count of Aggravated Domestic Battery, in relation to the death of an 8-year-old. The victim was transported from Normal to a Peoria area hospital for advanced medical care on January 25, 2019 and died the following day. Subsequent to the grand jury indictments, an arrest warrant was issued for Cynthia Marie Clay, who was taken into custody by detectives from the Normal Police Department on the afternoon of April 24, 2019. Clay is currently being held at the McLean County Jail in lieu of bond.

The 5 count indictments allege murder (3 counts), aggravated battery of a child (1 count), and aggravated domestic battery (1 count). Specifically, the indictments allege that Clay is responsible for the death of the victim as she, without lawful justification and with the intent to do great bodily harm, kicked the victim in the abdomen resulting in peritonitis due to intestinal perforation from blunt force trauma. Further alleged in the indictments are the facts that the victim was a family or household member and under the age of 13.

Murder is a class M felony, generally punishable by a term of incarceration not less than 20 years and not more than 60 years. If an extended term is imposed, then the sentence could be enhanced to natural life in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Aggravated Battery of a Child is a Class X Felony carrying a sentence between 6 to 30 years' incarceration. Aggravated Domestic Battery is a class 2 felony that carries a possible penalty of not less than 3 or more than 7 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

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This case remains an active investigation. Any persons with information concerning this case are asked to contact Normal Police Detective Joe Gossmeier at (309) 454-9614, jgossmeier@normal.org or McLean County Crime Stoppers at 309-828-1111.

(Normal Police Department media releases can be found on the website at www.npd.org.)