



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 881-4800

PATERSON MAN ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

December 23, 2021

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces the arrest of Ricardo Rivera, 30 years old, of Paterson, New Jersey. Mr. Rivera was arrested on December 22, 2021, after an investigation conducted by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit.

Mr. Rivera is charged with one count of first degree Murder, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1) or N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(2), and one count of second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2).

On October 20, 2021, the Paterson Police Department contacted the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit regarding the death of a two-year-old child. On October 20, 2021, at 6:44 AM, the child was pronounced deceased at St. Joseph's University Medical Center.

On October 23, 2021, the Northern Regional Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy on the child and determined that the manner of death was homicide, and the cause of death was blunt force trauma. The subsequent investigation, including numerous witness statements, resulted in the charges against Mr. Rivera.

The sentencing exposure for first degree Murder where the victim is under the age of 14, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1) or N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(2), is life in New Jersey State Prison without the possibility of parole; on second degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2), it is five to ten years in New Jersey State Prison.

Mr. Rivera is currently detained at the Passaic County Jail. The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office has filed a motion for the pretrial detention of Mr. Rivera, which will be heard before a Superior Court Judge at a later date.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident or other incidents regarding these individuals to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO.

For media inquiries concerning this case, please contact Senior Assistant Prosecutor Alyssa DiSturco of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Major Crimes Division, Special Victims Unit at adisturco@passaiccountynj.org or at (862) 289-2106.



Ricardo Rivera