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October 15, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Oxford Man Arrested for Burning Baby

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Jorge Colon for burning his one-month old daughter. The defendant is charged with aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, and related charges.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This is a shocking crime. A father should be willing to lay down his life for his child. Instead, this defendant decided to douse his baby daughter with scalding water, causing severe burns."

The defendant is a resident of Oxford, Pennsylvania. He is 20 years old.

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

The defendant and Maria Ortiz have two children. The youngest child is Kiara Colon, a one-month old baby.

The baby had been suffering from colic, with continual crying reported by the parents. On October 12, 2012, the baby was taken to Jennersville Regional Hospital and A.I. duPont Hospital, checked, and released.

On October 13, 2012, the baby was crying again. Maria Ortiz, the baby's mother, was taking a shower. The defendant was responsible for giving the baby a bath.

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

The defendant was giving the baby a bath in the sink. The baby started to cry. The defendant became frustrated, lost his temper, and turned the water to scalding hot. When the scalding water hit the baby, she screamed.

The defendant wrapped the baby in a towel. When he removed the towel, the baby's skin was peeling off from the burns.

The defendant and Maria Ortiz took the baby to Jennersville Regional Hospital. The baby then was transferred to the Burn Unit at Crozer-Chester Medical Center.

The baby is in critical condition at Crozer-Chester. The baby suffered first and second degree burns over 40% of her body.

Oxford Police Chief John Slauch stated, "I have been a police officer for 38 years. This is one of the worst cases of child abuse I have ever seen in Chester County."

District Attorney Hogan added, "As a prosecutor, I am outraged that anybody would harm a baby. As a father, I am deeply saddened and disturbed that a father could do this to his own daughter."

The defendant's bail was set at \$125,000 cash. He failed to post bail and was remanded to Chester County Prison.

This case was investigated by the Oxford Borough Police Department and Chester County Detectives. Deputy District Attorney Elizabeth Pitts of the District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit has been assigned to prosecute the case.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan