

Newborn tests positives for meth, marijuana, and cocaine

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TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - A newborn baby who died two and a half hours after his birth tested positive for meth, cocaine, and pot, according to a report released by the Arizona Department of Child Safety.

The medical examiner's report stated, the baby's mother Amber Matuska contributed to the infant's death because of drug abuse.

According to the Department of child safety, "On February 5th, 2014, Amber Matuska neglected her newborn son, Delmon Matuska, when she exposed him to illegal substances, causing Delmon to test positive for the methamphetamines, cocaine, and marijuana at birth."

The medical examiners report listed the cause of death as "prematurity with substance abuse by his mother as a contributing factor to his prematurity and subsequent death."

Seven months later, Matuska was still not facing any charges in relation to the baby's death. Tucson News Now asked the Tucson Police Department what the status of this investigation was.

Police said it was still an open investigation and called it an unusual case. Police said charges were not filed yet as detectives were still looking into a legal loophole in the negligent homicide statute, that stated children born within a mother's womb could be classified as a self abortion.

Baby Delmon died two and a half hours after he was born. Police said they were still trying to determine at what point the child was actually declared deceased.

DCS officials said they had no prior reports of abuse or neglect involving Delmon Matuska and Amber Matuska.

Court records indicated Matuska had a criminal rap sheet involving drug selling and drug possession charges dating back to 2003.

Tucson News Now requested a copy of the search warrant, and found one served on Matuska's home and person on the day of the baby's death.

According to the search warrant, police seized cell phones, a counterfeit \$20 bill, marijuana, blood and buccal swabs from Matuska.

Court records also indicated that Matuska was arrested on drug charges a month after the baby's death.

Dr. Abraham Bressler, a neonatologist with the Tucson Medical Center said they saw many babies born addicted to drugs in their labor and delivery room.

"Doing those substances can affect the growth of the baby and the development of the baby. It can lead to problems with the delivery or trouble at the time of the delivery," said Bressler.

He added that babies suffering from withdrawal were jittery, had a rapid heart beat, irritable, did not feed well, had profuse diarrhea, and in severe cases had seizures. Bressler said drug addicted babies could be treated by placing them in a very quiet room, and a calm environment where they were not disturbed much at all, with low light. In unusual cases, Dr. Bressler said babies would not survive.

In some cases babies could also be treated with Methadone to help them from heroine withdrawal symptoms.

"It's very heart-breaking," said Bressler.