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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Mother Charged with Murder of Newborn Child

An Indian Trail woman, **Khrystina Marie Rice, age 27**, was arrested earlier today and charged with First Degree Murder and Felony Child Abuse in connection with the death of her newborn son born at her residence this past Sunday morning. The circumstances leading to the charges stem from a 911 call placed by Rice's husband at approximately 6:50 am Sunday after he went upstairs and found his wife on the master bathroom floor bleeding extensively.

Bakers Fire Department and Union EMS responded to the house and discovered Rice on the floor with significant bleeding. She did not answer questions to explain why she was bleeding and paramedics were unable to locate cuts to her body to explain the blood. Paramedics observed blood in the closet area of the master bathroom which led to the discovery of a placenta inside a trash can. In addition, paramedics located a newborn infant tightly wrapped from head to toe in a blanket. The blanket with the child was concealed inside of a trash bag in the closet. Paramedics began performing CPR on the infant and were able to gain a faint pulse. EMS transported both Rice and the infant to Novant Matthews for further treatment. The infant lived for several hours but died later that afternoon at the hospital.

Based upon circumstances found in the home, EMS requested the Union County Sheriff's Office come to the residence located in the 5900 block of Carolina Manor Court in Indian Trail. Deputies, detectives and crime scene investigators

responded and examined the crime scene following the issuance of a search warrant.

Detectives conducted several interviews in regards to this matter and have also consulted with the Medical Examiner concerning the infant's cause of death. Detectives believe the infant weighed nearly 7 pounds at birth and was born healthy. The preliminary cause of death is asphyxiation but additional injuries to the infant included a skull fracture as well as rib fractures.

Rice's husband was reportedly unaware of her pregnancy and was sleeping downstairs in the home Sunday morning before hearing what sounded like someone falling upstairs. Detectives believe that Rice intended to conceal the pregnancy and had not sought prenatal care. The couple has one other child, a 4 year old son and she has an 8 year old daughter from a previous relationship. Sheriff's Office detectives have also been in contact with Union County Department of Social Services.

Rice is under no bond.



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Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

