

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

871 ROCKDALE AVENUE · NEW BEDFORD, MA · 02740



P R E S S R E L E A S E

(PR-8-92)

For Immediate Release

Monday, August 27, 2007

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COUPLE ARRESTED AFTER BREAKING THEIR 3-WEEK OLD CHILD'S LEG

On Friday, August 24, 2007 just after 3:00 A.M., New Bedford Police were called to St. Luke's Hospital to meet a hospital social worker about a 3-week old child with a broken leg. The child, a baby boy, had been brought to St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford the previous evening at 7:00 P.M. and doctors determined that the injury was at least (2) days old.

New Bedford Police detectives from the Family Services Division (*Juvenile/Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence*) then took over the case and determined that the mother of the child, APRIL RICE, apparently became upset when the baby was crying so she slammed him down into a chair. Upon doing so she broke the child's leg but rather than bring the child for medical treatment, she and the child's father, JOSHUA CADWELL, attempted to re-set the broken leg. When the child was insatiably upset for (2) days, they brought him to the Emergency Room (2) days later and told hospital personnel that the injury had just occurred.

As a result, Detectives Gene Fortes and Christopher Andrade sought out the parents and placed them both under arrest. They later obtained a search warrant for the parents' home located at 83 Ruth Street and searched it for evidence, including the chair that the child was slammed into. Upon entering the home investigators found (6) cats, (1) ferocious dog, (1) snake, several mice and (1) spider. They also reported seeing cockroaches all over the floors, walls and rummaging through bags of garage that were located in the living room and kitchen. Investigators reported that the apartment reeked of cat urine and garbage and being covered with animal feces and decomposing food on the floors.

The mother, **APRIL RICE** (DOB: 04/05/1986) originally from Minnesota was charged as follows:

- 1) Assault & Battery By Means Of A Dangerous Weapon (chair)**
- 2) Assault & Battery Resulting In Serious Bodily Injury**
- 3) Assault & Battery On A Child Under 14**

The father, **JOSHUA CADWELL** (05/04/1977) originally from Minnesota, was charged as follows:

1) Accessory After The Fact (to the above crimes)

The child remains in custody of the Department of Social Services and is expected to recover. The Board of Health and Animal Control Division were notified as a result of the condition of the apartment and the animals. The parents were arraigned this morning in New Bedford 3rd District Court on the above charges.

Anyone with further information regarding this case is asked to call the Family Services Division (*Juvenile/Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence*) at 508.991.6347 or the TIP LINE at 508.961.4584.

All calls are completely anonymous.



New Bedford Police

Media Report

PERSONS FILE Number: **263714**

Name: **CADWELL, JOSHUA**



Photo Date: 8/24/2007

Race: **WHITE**
DOB: **05/04/1977**
Age: **30**
Sex: **MALE**
Eyes: **BLUE**
Hair: **BROWN**
Height: **71 INCHES**
Weight: **253 LBS**

Last known Address: **83 RUTH ST**

NEW BEDFORD MA 02744

Parole or Probation?:





New Bedford Police

Media Report

PERSONS FILE Number: **263715**

Name: **RICE, APRIL**



Photo Date: 8/24/2007

Race: **WHITE**
DOB: **01/05/1986**
Age: **21**
Sex: **FEMALE**
Eyes: **BROWN**
Hair: **BROWN**
Height: **63 INCHES**
Weight: **132 LBS**

Last known Address: **83 RUTH ST**

NEW BEDFORD MA 02744

Parole or Probation?:

