



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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05/17/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILD ABUSE CHARGE FILED AGAINST CHILD CARE PROVIDER

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Samantha Renee Dillbeck, 28, of Republic, Missouri has been charged today with the class B felony of abuse of a child for causing abusive head trauma to an eight-month-old child at her in-home daycare on March 21, 2017. Dillbeck is also being charged in a separate case with the infraction of operating a child-care without the necessary license as she was caring for more than four unrelated children.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Dawn Diel. It is being investigated by the Republic Police Department and Detective Angela Looney is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI
Associate Division _____

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. 1731-CR03213
)	
SAMANTHA RENEE DILLBECK,)	OCN#
)	
Defendant.)	PA File No. 077381138

FELONY COMPLAINT

(Missouri Charge Code: 568.060-006Y20123802.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 568.060, RSMo, committed the class B felony of abuse of a child, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 565.060, RSMo, in that on or about March 21, 2017, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant was eighteen years of age or older, and recklessly caused G. B., a child less than eighteen years of age, to suffer serious physical injury to the head.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.



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REPUBLIC POLICE DEPARTMENT



PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: May 16, 2017

Case #: RPD17-0581

I, Detective Angela Looney, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that on 03/21/2017 **0715 hours** – 03/21/2017 1503, at 122 W. Wade Street Republic, Missouri, County of Greene, Samantha R. Dillbeck; DOB: [REDACTED] 988, committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On March 21, 2017 at 1504 hours, Republic Police were dispatched to 122 W. Wade Street Republic, Missouri, County of Greene for a check the wellbeing of eight month old baby boy, later identified as G.B. [REDACTED]/2016] that was unresponsive.

When Officer Osborne entered the residence, G.B. was lying on the living room floor which was carpeted in tan/beige carpeting dressed with a multi-colored area rug. G.B. was approximately in the middle of the living room floor unresponsive. G.B. was lying on his right side next to a coffee table on top of the area rug. G.B. was gasping for air at approximately every two to three seconds. The Republic Middle School Nurse, Rebekah Koffey, was attending to G.B. Koffey was a family friend to G.B. and arrived to the location with G.B.'s mother, Sara Barnhart, and grandmother, Angela Bos. Koffey later reported to Officer Osborne that when she first came into the residence, Samantha was on the phone with the 911 operator but was standing over by the back patio door (five to ten feet from G.B.) and not attending to his medical needs. At a later time, I Detective A. Looney reviewed the 911 call which you could clearly hear G.B. gasping for air during the 911 call up until the 911 Operator asked Samantha to tell her every time G.B. took a breath. All of the sudden the gasping sound got distant and disappeared for several seconds at which time you could then hear Koffey enter the residence and the gasping re-appears which would be consistent if Samantha walked away from G.B. during the time the 911 Operator was instructing her to assist G.B. up until Koffey arrived.

G.B. was in transport as I arrived at Samantha's residence. I spoke to Samantha and she appeared to be calm and had collected thoughts. She did not appear to be distressed in any manner at that time. I asked Samantha to tell me what happened and Samantha stated G.B. was having "a normal day, totally fine". Samantha again stated G.B. "ate his lunch fine, he ate his morning bottle fine, he acted normal." Samantha reported G.B. woke up from his afternoon nap at approximately 1400 hours, she then fed G.B. and he drank eight ounces of baby formula at approximately 1430 hours. Samantha stated she sat G.B. on the living room floor in front of ten month old, G.S. [REDACTED] 2016]; another child Samantha watched at her daycare. I asked Samantha exactly where G.B. had been sitting and she identified the section of the area rug for which G.B. was sitting on was not larger than a two foot by two foot section. Samantha stated G.B. was interacting, talking "cooing" with G.S. Samantha reported that G.B. was having difficulty sitting up on his own so she was working with him. Samantha stated repeatedly that G.B. had fallen over multiple times on the carpet from a seated position on that day in addition to several other days. Samantha stated G.B. made a coughing noise "like he was going to throw up" but didn't, then his eyes rolled back into his head and then he "slammed" his head onto the floor. As Samantha said the word "slammed", she motioned with her right hand, palm in an upright position. She said, "G.B. cried and I immediately picked him up and he went "limp" and he was gasping for air and did not appear to be

breathing at times." G.B. then started to display delayed breathing. Samantha stated she called Sara and Sara told her to call 911.

Samantha then stated G.B. had been to the hospital recently because he had been ill and he had been ill on and off for a long time (approximately two to three months) for which most of that time G.B. was vomiting. Samantha stated G.B. had only vomited three times in her presence; twice while Sara was picking him up from daycare for which G.B. had vomited on Sara and once while alone in the care of Samantha.

I then asked Officer Osborne to get all of Samantha's information and all the children's information that were in Samantha's care. Samantha gave the following information for the children in her care:

-G.B. [REDACTED]2016] for parents Shane and Sara Barnhart

-S.H. [REDACTED]/2015] for parents Krysta and Zach Holbert

-G.S. [REDACTED]2016] AKA "Little Gabby" for parents Jessica and Rex Starkey

-G.M. [REDACTED]/2015] AKA "Big Gabby" for parents Autumn Snide and Nathan Mahan

-A.F. [REDACTED]/2014] for parents Elizabeth and David Fitzgerald

And we later found out Samantha also had O.H. [REDACTED]2016] for parents Heather and Kevin Haun in her care at the time all first responders arrived but no one saw him. In addition, Samantha also cared for J.K. [REDACTED]2016] for parents Kari and Scott Kirby.

Officer Osborne contacted Elaine Cox, Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) with the Department of Health and Senior Services, Section of Child Care Regulation (hereinafter DHSS-SCCR), and she stated an anonymous report was received by the DHSS-SCCR on May 16, 2016 in reference to Samantha operating an unlicensed daycare for which Samantha received an information sheet for unlicensed child care provider in Missouri on May 19, 2016.

I responded to Mercy Hospital and spoke with Emergency Room (ER) Registered Nurse (RN), Amanda Vance. RN Vance stated G.B. had already been transported to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) and had been seen by Holli Bagwell, DO Peds ER, Krisi Causa, DO Trauma, Sami Khoshyomn, MD Peds Neurosurgery and Kyle Lemley, MD Peds/PICU. RN Vance stated the ER was given a report by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) that G.B. had fallen out of a chair onto tile floor. I attempted to confirm that information but EMS staff stated they believed it was Republic Fire personnel that stated such but no Fire Fighters reported ever stating such.

I had Shane Barnhart sign a medical release form for G.B.'s records. I was then informed by medical staff that G.B. had sustained non-acute hemorrhages and acute hemorrhages on his brain in addition to a small subdural hematoma that was present overlying the left frontal convexity and slightly hyper dense fluid collection was seen overlying the right frontal lobe.

On the evening of March 21, 2016 I responded back to Samantha's residence with Officer Osborne and Greene County Children's Division (CD), Liza Schoeneck. Again, Samantha stated G.B. had a "normal" day, played good and ate good. Samantha also stated again that G.B. was sitting up on his own, cooing to G.S. and they were touching toes in a playful manner with one another just before G.B. then looked up at her (Samantha) "and his eyes rolled in the back of his head and he fell just straight backwards and he cried for a second and I scooped him up and he fell hard so I scooped him up and he went completely limp in my arms. So he was still breathing at that point and time and he was trying to look at me so I tried to call his mom immediately and she said to call 911 so I called them. I took him outside; I was walking around trying to get some air on him. I was trying to get him to respond." Schoeneck asked Samantha what time G.B. was dropped off in her care and she stated approximately 0715 hours on March 21, 2017. Schoeneck asked Samantha if she had State license to operate and Samantha stated she did not because she had been instructed that she could watch five unrelated children at a time.

A Child Advocacy Center (CAC) interview was scheduled for Samantha's daughter, M.D. During the CAC, M.D. disclosed that G.B. didn't feel good and he was taken to the doctor. CAC Interviewer Nicole Schrock asked M.D. why G.B. did not feel good and M.D. stated "he just didn't feel good. Mommy went outside and him falls off of outside." Schrock asked M.D. what that meant and M.D. stated, "He falled off a big owie." Schrock asked M.D. if she saw G.B. fall and M.D. stated she did not. Schrock asked M.D. where she was when baby G.B. fell and M.D. stated, "Baby [G.B.] didn't fall outside and I'm not a baby." Schrock asked if G.B. had ever fallen and M.D. stated, "Yeah." Schrock asked where G.B. was when he fell and M.D. stated she did not know. Schrock asked M.D. if anyone else had ever fallen before but M.D. did not answer the question but rather asked Schrock to trace both of her hands. Schrock asked M.D. if anyone else ever got hurt and M.D. stated she did not know. Schrock asked M.D. if anyone had ever hurt her before and M.D. stated, "No." Schrock then asked M.D. has someone hurt G.B. and M.D. stated, "Uh huh, mommy." Schrock repeated 'mommy' and M.D. stated "Uh huh." Schrock asked M.D. to tell her how mommy hurt G.B. and M.D. replied, "Um him fall off (inaudible) but him didn't get a scratch." Schrock asked M.D. if her mommy did something to hurt G.B. and M.D. replied, "Yeah." Schrock asked what her mommy do and M.D. stated, "Um I don't know."

On March 22, 2017 Mercy Pediatric Ophthalmology Mark Cascairo, DO provided G.B. with medical care. Dr. Cascairo located retinal hemorrhages in both of G.B.'s right and left eyes and multiple intra-retinal and pre-retinal hemorrhages OU; oculus uterque meaning both eyes (worse OD; oculus dexter meaning right eye than OS; oculus sinister meaning left eye) with macular fold OD-pathognomonic for shaken baby injury. It should be noted there were no visible external injuries such as bruising on G.B.'s head and no fractured skull.

In summary it was determined by Mercy Hospital medical staff that G.B. had sustained:

- non-acute hemorrhages on his brain and
- acute hemorrhages on his brain and
- retinal hemorrhages in both his right and left eyes and
- a small subdural hematoma overlying the left frontal convexity and
- a slightly hyper dense fluid collection overlying the right frontal lobe and
- multiple intra-retinal and pre-retinal hemorrhages
 - *OU; oculus uterque meaning both eyes (worse OD; oculus dexter meaning right eye than OS; oculus sinister meaning left eye) and
- macular folds OD-pathognomonic for shaken baby injury

On March 23, 2017 Samantha and Wyatt Dillbeck arrived at the Republic Police Department to be interviewed. Samantha stated G.B. was dropped off around 0715 hours on March 21, 2017. I asked Samantha how she would describe G.B.'s mood that day and she replied, "He's been very lethargic since all of the sickness and stuff's been going on. He comes in and he's, and especially since spring break, he was with her so he was real clingy." Samantha continued stating, "She (Sara) handed him to me. He has a little Mickey Mouse blankey and he was totally fine." I asked Samantha if G.B. had been fussy at all that day and Samantha replied, "No. No".

Samantha stated G.B. had laid down for a nap at 1145 hours on March 21, 2017. I asked Samantha from 0715 hours until 1145 hours if G.B. was good and Samantha replied, "He was great." I asked if G.B. had eaten anything during those hours and Samantha stated, "He, yeah, he ate a bottle, um, probably 2 hours after being there, like at 9. He slept probably 20 minutes after she left. He fell asleep. I put him in the crib and then he woke up wet and hungry. So, I fed him a bottle at probably 9-something and then he doesn't stay awake long, so, he laid there after he ate. And kind of played with his Mickey thing and then he got tired, fell asleep again, and then I woke him up around 11:15, I think, to feed him his actual baby food, not a bottle, and he ate that fine and was smiling and normal, and then he went back. He usually

has two jars and he ate that normal and fell right back to sleep, um, and then I woke him up at 2 to feed him again 'cause all he does is eat and sleep." Samantha then explained to how she does place G.B. in the highchair in the living room to feed him his jarred food and she stated, "And he sits in that pretty well, but he does kinda topple sideways sometimes and so, it works, but not like the other kids work." Samantha continued speaking, "So, I was, I got him stuffed and he took it like a champ, ate all of it, fine, um, I had him lying on the rug next to [G.S.], who also takes a bottle and they, they just kind of stare at each other and hold their bottle, which I, she's kind of taught him how to hold the bottle so it's worked too and it's cute, but I took a picture of them sitting right where the incident happened, um, like at 2:54, I have 3 pictures, I was trying to take pictures of them interacting with each other, um, and then I called her at 3:02 or 3:01 and on 911 one minute after that. So, he, I mean, it'd been 6 or 7 minutes since the photos where he's sitting up normal and he's clenching onto his pants 'cause he knows he's not stable and he normally will catch himself and go down pretty slow, but he didn't catch himself when he— When he fell that time."

Samantha stated, "And he's just sitting fine, doing his thing, they were cooing. I actually got a call from S.H.'s mom to tell me she was running a little bit late and she could hear him and her kinda whimper in the background 'cause they get so mad when their feet touch each other and then that happened at, I mean, I called her at 3-0, 3:01 I think, I have it in my phone so. Yeah, so it just happened and I, he, when he fell backwards, he went like, eh, which isn't normal, you know, he didn't cry. A cry and I, it scared me when he fell 'cause he hit hard, I heard it, I mean, I'm sitting right there and I was like, "Oh my gosh," and I scooped him up and he just went completely limp in my arms and he had, like, one eye open and he was sorta looking at me, but it felt like he was looking right through me. And he was taking these, "Uhhh," like, one every 10 seconds it felt like, but he was still looking, like if I moved him and I talked to him his eyes were moving, so I called her because I knew once I called 911 I was going to have to stay on the phone until they got there and she's right down the road, so I called her and it wasn't even, I think it was like a 30-second, I had her on for, 30-second phone conversation 'cause I just said, "[G.B.]'s not breathing well. You need to get here right now," and I hung up and called 911 and they told me I was in the meantime walking around doing this, trying to, like, get his attention, I didn't know if that was the right thing to do, but it just, that's what I felt like I just needed to hold him and try and talk to him and, um, on the phone she asked if I was close to him and I said I'm holding him and she said, "Just lay him down on a flat surface."

After Samantha's interview, I interviewed Wyatt with STAT Randall Ragar. During Wyatt's interview, Ragar asked Wyatt why he thought someone would do something like that (referring to injuring a baby) and Wyatt stated, "Frustrated at work, stress, new parents. I mean, you can ask anybody at the day care—that son that's in her belly, I'm ecstatic for." Wyatt stated he did not think Samantha would cause injury to any child and he knew he did not cause any injuries. Ragar asked Wyatt if there was anything he wanted to tell us about the communication that day between Samantha and him and Wyatt stated, "She was just telling me she was distraught. I mean, it's hormonal right now 'cause she's pregnant." Ragar asked Wyatt if he had noticed lately that Samantha was extra stressed out and Wyatt replied, "She's always stressed." Ragar asked Wyatt if he knew the source of Samantha's stress and Wyatt stated, "Oh, just bills. I mean (crosstalk), a new baby. She's stressed about a new baby and everything else for, we work hard. We love God. And, we're trying to do right."

- On March 28, 2017 I obtained a search warrant for AT&T records for Wyatt and Samantha's AT&T account which also showed GPS coordinates for Wyatt's cell phone on March 21, 2017 placing him in the far northeast corner of Springfield all day and Samantha's cell phone in Republic all day.

- On March 29, 2017 a meeting was held at Mercy Surgical Center 4th floor library in the ophthalmology clinic with the following individuals: Dr. Cascairo, Mercy Critical Care-Pediatric, Pediatrics, MD Diane Lipscomb, Schoeneck, Tull, GCPA Diel, Ragar and I. Dr. Cascairo and Dr.

Lipscomb both covered the facts of G.B.'s injuries to the entire group and stated with G.B. having the retinal hemorrhaging, retinal folds and the brain hemorrhages that the injuries were symptomatic during the injury. Dr. Lipscomb stated in her professional opinion there was no possible way G.B. had sustained the trauma he suffered prior to arriving (eight hours) to M&M Daycare. Dr. Lipscomb stated G.B. would have had immediate symptoms to the injuries he had therefore in her professional opinion, the injuries inflicted on G.B. would have been inflicted within several minutes of the 911 call placed by Samantha.

- On March 31, 2017 I had Samantha come back in to the Republic Police Department to pick up some of her property and for an interview. I explained to Samantha that Ragar and I had a meeting with Dr. Lipscomb and Dr. Cascairo and Ragar would explain to her what was discussed. Ragar then explained to Samantha that whatever happened to G.B. to cause his injuries had to have happened while G.B. was in her care and Samantha replied, "Okay." I told Samantha we were now at that point that something did happen to G.B. and she replied, "Right." I then stated and nobody else could have done it and again Samantha stated, "Right." Ragar asked Samantha how she thought G.B.'s injuries happened and she said she did not know. We then asked Samantha if someone accidentally caused injuries to a child if that person deserved a second chance and Samantha stated yes. Samantha stated she had never had any other child get injured in her care like that.

- On May 9, 2017 I received the report from Children's Mercy MD Jennifer B. Hansen Child Abuse Pediatrician in reference to G.B.. According to MD Hansen's report the following information and expert opinion was stated G.B. was found to have:- Bilateral mixed density subdural hemorrhages
- Small foci of hemorrhage in the cerebellum- Bilateral retinal hemorrhages- A macular fold in the right eye
-his hospital course was complicated by multiple episodes of seizure activity.

MD Hansen stated based on the current available information, the most reasonable explanation for G.B.'s injuries is child physical abuse/abusive head trauma. MD Hansen stated the following in support of her conclusion:

- The history of a short fall from a seated position on the floor is not consistent with severe injury and does not explain G.B.'s findings
 - Bilateral subdural hemorrhages over the cerebral convexities and in the interhemispheric space have been shown to be highly specific for acceleration-deceleration trauma (with or without impact) and are highly specific for inflicted injury,
 - Bleeding in multiple compartments, as G.B. has, is also highly specific for abusive head trauma
 - G.B. has numerous retinal hemorrhages in multiple retinal layers bilaterally and a macular fold in the right eye; these findings are indicative of significant head trauma and macular folds are reported exclusively in abusive head trauma and fatal head injuries- from head crush, major car crashes, and falls from significant heights (i.e. 3 stories) none of which were present in this case
 - Research has shown that the combined presence of subdural hemorrhage, retinal hemorrhage, apnea, and seizures, indicates a likelihood of abuse as the cause of these findings of nearly 100%
- Head imaging studies from the outside hospital indicate the possibility of both "older" and "newer" head injury: Hansen's reported the following:
- Review of imaging performed indicates the presence of membranes within the subdural hemorrhage collections. This indicates that the hemorrhages have been present for at least 2-3 weeks since membranes are not present before that time
 - He also had an acute hemorrhage at the time of admission, which most likely occurred within the past several days
 - Based on this information, this child (G.B.) has suffered at least two separate episodes of violent abusive head injury.

- G.B. had subarachnoid hemorrhage present- these findings indicates injury which occurred within the past several days

- the presence of numerous intraretinal hemorrhages bilaterally suggests that a significant injury event occurred within the last 2 weeks, as essentially all intraretinal hemorrhages resolve within this time frame

- G.B. was previously seen by a medical provider almost 2 weeks before his presentation with symptoms of fussiness, vomiting without diarrhea or fever, and concern for decreased activity and "stiffness." These symptoms could be related to a prior brain injury and previous episode of abusive head trauma. However, G.B. was not evaluated for this possibility at that time, so this cannot be definitively determined.

- There is nothing about G.B.'s brain injury that suggests he would have had a lucid interval between the time of his injury and the time he became severely symptomatic on the day of admission. Since G.B. had been with the daycare provider for approximately 9 hours, and by all available reports had been acting normally that day prior to his collapse, it is most likely that he suffered an episode of significant head injury very near the time he became symptomatic and unresponsive.

MD. Hansen stated G.B. has been the victim of severe child physical abuse and abusive head trauma, on at least two separate occasions, and the most recent injury event occurred proximal in the time to his acute presentation on 03/21/2017. A previous injury episode occurred at least 2-3 weeks prior to his acute presentation on 03/21/2017.

Samantha was a care giver and operating an unlicensed daycare from her residence where she had more than four unrelated children in her care at one time. In addition, Samantha stated G.B. was acting normal on March 21, 2017, and she was the only adult within the residence at the time of G.B.'s injuries occurred and the 911 call and knowing that the injuries that G.B. sustained would of had an immediate symptomatic reaction and the most recent injury event occurred near the time of his acute presentation on March 21, 2017 which was approximately at 1500 hours due to the 911 call being placed at 1503 hours indicates G.B.'s injuries were caused by Samantha while he was in her care.

The above facts and information are true to the best of my information and belief.

Name: Angela Looney

DSN: 108 Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Looney" followed by the number "108". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a horizontal line.

Position: Detective

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.) Case No. 1731-CR03213
)
) PA File No. 077381138
SAMANTHA RENEE DILLBECK)
Defendant.)

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BAIL/BOND RECOMMENDATION

The bail/bond recommendation of the Greene County Prosecutor, in this case, is as follows:

1. AMOUNT: \$25,000.00

OPEN COURT ONLY BOND (by administrative order applies automatically to bonds \$25,000 and higher)

2. The State requests that the Court also impose the conditions of bond set out on the proposed Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant attached hereto and that such conditions be incorporated by reference upon the Warrant.
3. The State requests the Court set bond in the above amount and upon the conditions set out in Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant hereto for the following reasons: Nature of offense as reflected in the probable cause statement. Defendant had been warned in May 2016 not to operate an unlicensed daycare caring for more than four unrelated children and was found with more than four unrelated children in her care at time of charged offense.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A
TO ARREST WARRANT

State of Missouri v. Samantha Renee Dillbeck
Case No:

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF RELEASE ON BOND SET BY THE COURT:

- OPEN COURT ONLY BOND
- Obey all laws
- No contact or communication with victim(s) or the victim's family in any manner or through any medium
- No unsupervised contact with children under seventeen (17) years of age
- Other: Not to operate any child care business and not to provide any sort of babysitting or child care service.