

LOHRA L. MILLER  
District Attorney for Salt Lake County  
MANDY L. ROSE, Bar No. 9739  
ROBERT N. PARRISH, 2530  
Deputy District Attorney  
111 EAST BROADWAY, SUITE #400  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111  
Telephone: (801)363-7900

IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

THE STATE OF UTAH  
Plaintiff,  
vs.

**EMPERATRIZ MEZA REYNA**  
**DOB: 09/10/1987,**  
**AKA: EMPERATRIZ REYNA MEZA**  
**4307 South 4800 West**  
**West Valley, UT**  
**OTN 30939292**  
**SO# 312714**  
Defendant.

Screened by: MANDY L. ROSE and  
ROBERT PARRISH  
Assigned to: MANDY ROSE and ROBERT  
PARRISH  
DAO# 09026278  
Bail: \$500,000  
Warrant/Release: IN JAIL

**INFORMATION**

Case No.

The undersigned Larry Marx - WEST VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, Agency Case No. 09I032414, upon a written affidavit states on information and belief that the defendant, EMPERATRIZ MEZA REYNA, committed the crime of:

COUNT 1

ATTEMPTED MURDER WITH INJURY, (2129) 76-5-203(2)(a) UCA, first degree felony, as follows: That on or about July 22, 2009 at 4307 South 4800 West, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah the defendant intentionally or knowingly attempted to cause the death of another and the victim or another suffered serious bodily injury.

COUNT 2

CHILD ABUSE, (156) 76-5-109(2)(a) UCA, second degree felony, as follows: That on or about July 22, 2009 at 4307 South 4800 West, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah the defendant did intentionally or knowingly inflict upon a child serious physical injury or, having the care or custody of such child, intentionally or knowingly caused or permitted another to inflict serious physical injury upon said child.

INFORMATION

DAO No. 09026278

Page 2

COUNT 3

CHILD ABUSE, (154) 76-5-109(3)(a) UCA, class A misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about July 22, 2009 at 4307 South 4800 West, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah the defendant intentionally or knowingly inflicted upon a child physical injury or, having the care or custody of such child, intentionally or knowingly caused or permitted another to inflict physical injury upon a child.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

Eric Brown, Lori Frasier, Karen Hansen, Agustin Hernandez, Justin Hoyal, Larry Marx, Michelle Munkwetz, Wade Sanders, Marion Walker

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

1. On or about July 22, 2009, K.L., (dob 3-12-02), was taken to Pioneer Valley Hospital by her mother, Emperatriz Meza-Reyna and her step-father, Agustin Hernandez. While medical staff was attempting to perform a CT scan, K.L. went into cardiac arrest. K.L. was life-flighted to Primary Children's Medical Center.
2. The statement of Detective Wade Sanders of the West Valley Police Department, that on or about July 22, 2009, law enforcement was dispatched to Primary Children's Medical Center on a child abuse referral regarding, K.L., age 7. The statement of Detective Sanders that upon arrival at Primary Children's Medical Center, K.L. was unconscious and had a breathing tube inserted. Furthermore, Detective Sanders could see that K.L. had an injury under her right eye, multiple bruises on her left leg and ankle, a bite mark under her left nipple towards the center of her chest as well as bruises around both breasts. In addition, K.L.'s left eye was extremely swollen and bruised.
3. The statement of Dr. Michelle Munkwetz of Primary Children's Medical Center, that K.L. had a brain injury and part of her skull had to be removed to alleviate swelling. That K.L. had blood covering her brain and that her brain tissue was torn. The statement of Dr. Munkwetz that K.L. also had an adult-sized bite mark on her abdomen and multiple bruises on her leg and buttocks. The statement of Dr. Munkwetz that in her opinion, the severe head injury was consistent with K.L.'s head having been struck by some object, such as a baseball bat or board, or someone having swung the child's head into some sort of hard surface or object.
4. The statement of Dr. Lori Frasier, Medical Director for the Safe and Healthy Families Team at Primary Children's Medical Center, that K.L. had a contusion under

INFORMATION

DAO No. 09026278

Page 3

her scalp and a space-occupying subdural hematoma, consistent only with a massive blow or blows being applied to the left temporal area of the victim's head, or with the victim's head being forcefully slammed into something. K.L.'s brain was severely swollen and Dr. Marion L. Walker, Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Primary Children's Medical Center, had to remove a flap of K.L.'s skull to alleviate the pressure and save her life. Dr. Walker expressed his opinion that the head injuries to K.L. were caused by a high-velocity impact. Although K.L.'s condition had stabilized, it initially appeared K.L. may not survive the inflicted head injuries and, in Dr. Frasier's opinion, K.L. will almost certainly suffer permanent brain damage or brain dysfunction as a result of the inflicted head injury. In Dr. Frasier's opinion, the head injury was life-threatening and could have caused the death of K.L. Furthermore, that K.L. had bruising to her arms, legs, left ankle and a large bruise on her buttocks with an area of central clearing, as well as bruising behind her ear, all of which in Dr. Frasier's opinion were consistent with having been inflicted by another person. Dr. Frasier indicated that the bite mark on K.L.'s upper abdomen at the bottom of the rib cage was caused by an adult, based on the size of the mark. Dr. Frasier also stated that K.L. suffered a broken clavicle which showed signs of healing, indicating a prior injury.

5. The statement of Emperatriz Meza-Reyna, biological mother of K.L., to Dr. Munkwetz that she was the only adult in the home with R.L. on July 22, 2009 and at the time K.L. showed signs of distress. Additionally, that Meza-Reyna is the primary caretaker of K.L. and K.L.'s siblings. Agustin Hernandez, K.L.'s step-father and the father of Meza-Reyna's younger children, was not home when the severe head injury to K.L. occurred, but arrived as the child was developing symptoms and went with Meza-Reyna to take K.L. to Pioneer Valley Hospital.
6. Emperatriz Meza-Reyna was previously charged with multiple counts of child abuse of K.L. in January 2008, when K.L. was 5 years of age, and was convicted of two counts of third degree felony child abuse of K.L. in September 2008. Although the Division of Child and Family Services removed K.L. and her half-siblings at that time, on April 30, 2009, K.L. was returned to the custody of Meza-Reyna.
7. The statement of Dr. Karen Hansen, the Safe and Healthy Family Team Pediatrician, that K.L. was seen in the emergency department in January 2008 and was eventually admitted to the hospital. That upon examination of the child, K.L. was noted to have a subconjunctival hemorrhage lateral to the iris of each of her eyes. The statement of Dr. Hansen that K.L. had extensive bruises on each lateral thigh as well as a large bruise with central clearing present on the right flank. Furthermore, that a CT scan showed soft tissue swelling in the left temporal region with minimal underlying subarachnoid hemorrhage, consistent with a blow or blows being delivered to that area of the child's head.

INFORMATION

DAO No. 09026278

Page 4

8. The statement of Emperatriz Meza-Reyna to law enforcement on January 25, 2008, that she hits K.L. for no reason and is glad she was arrested because she was afraid she may kill her daughter. The statement of Meza-Reyna that she would put her hands around Karen's neck and strangle her, one time using so much force that K.L. wet herself. The statement of Meza-Reyna that she would cover K.L.'s mouth and pinch her nose for one to two minutes. The statement of Meza-Reyna that the bite mark K.L. had on her side in January 2008 was from Meza-Reyna biting K.L. because K.L. was crying. The statement of Meza-Reyna that she thought that her actions "could kill Karen." The statement of Meza-Reyna to law enforcement that she knows, "if it doesn't stop she will kill her." The statement of Meza-Reyna that she realized that when she covered her daughter's nose and mouth she could have killed her.
9. K.L. told Dr. Karen Hansen and law enforcement in January 2008 that the injuries caused by her mother were the bite mark, the bruises on her leg from being hit with a belt and a black cable, that the circular scars on her right shoulder were caused by her mother's fingernails and that her mother choked her with her hands.

INFORMATION

DAO No. 09026278

Page 5

10. The statements of Agustin Hernandez that Meza-Reyna would hit K.L. with belts, lock her in her room for hours at a time, and that when police responded in 2008, K.L. had permanent marker all over her face which Meza-Reyna applied as punishment for K.L.'s writing in a book.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 46-5-101 (2007) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Marx  
Affiant

Authorized for presentment and filing

LOHRA L. MILLER, District Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy District Attorney  
28th day of July, 2009  
SMR / DAO # 09026278