

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SALT LAKE COUNTY
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PRESS NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 11 October 2007

**Contact: Nate Bryan
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Workers of Draper Assisted Living Facility Charged

Two Workers Charged in Death of Disabled Resident

SALT LAKE CITY – The Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office has filed charges against two workers of a Draper assisted-living facility. Deborah Cole and Jorge Ramirez have each been charged with one count of ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A CHILD, a third degree felony. The defendants were taking care of residents at Youth Care, Inc. when they allegedly failed to provide adequate medical attention to a disabled child, which ultimately resulted in the death of the youth. The alleged incident took place on June 27, 2007. A copy the formal Information with more detailed facts is attached.

When asked about the incident, District Attorney Lohra Miller stated "Secure treatment facilities are responsible for providing appropriate medical treatment and care for the children entrusted to their supervision. In this case, it is alleged that a young boy's need for emergency medical treatment was ignored and that this negligence resulted in the boy's death. The law states that treatment facilities and their employees should be held to a heightened standard of care, and it is the responsibility of the District Attorney's Office to assure that this standard is upheld."

If convicted, the defendants could receive sentences of up to five years in prison. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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

THE STATE OF UTAH,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

JORGE RAMIREZ

Defendant.

DEBORAH COLE

Co-Defendant(s).

Screened by: A. Martinez/K. Crandall
Assigned to: A. Martinez/K. Crandall
DAO # 07019470

SUMMONS TO BE ISSUED
Warrant/Release:

INFORMATION

Case No.

Co-Def DAO # 07019475

The undersigned Detective P. Evans - Draper Police Department, Agency Case No. 07K011578, under oath states on information and belief that the defendants committed the crime of:

COUNT I

ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A DISABLED CHILD, a Third Degree Felony, at 12597 South Minuteman Drive, in Salt Lake County, State of Utah, on or about June 27, 2007, in violation of Title 76, Chapter 5, Section 110, Utah Code Annotated 1953, as amended, in that the defendants, **JORGE RAMIREZ** and **DEBORAH COLE**, as parties to the offense, having the care or custody of B.B., a disabled child, failed to provide medical care to B.B. causing the death of B.B.

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

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT:

Affiant is a detective with the Draper City Police Department. In that capacity, Affiant has read the police reports in this matter or otherwise received information from citizens or law enforcement personnel named herein. Based on those materials or communications, Affiant believes that the following supports this Information.

1. On or about June 27, 2007 B.B. was a resident of Youth Care, Inc. located at 12597 South Minuteman Dr., Draper, Utah. The statement of that B.B. had Asperger's Syndrome and is a disabled child. Following the recommendation of medical professionals, B.B. was placed into Youth Care, Inc.
2. The defendant's DEBORAH COLE and JORGE RAMIREZ are staff at Youth Care, Inc. and were on duty and the caretakers of B.B. on June 27, 2007. Despite the fact that B.B. had loss of bowel control, vomiting, complained of stomach pain the defendant's failed to seek medical attention for B.B. In the early morning hours of June 28, 2007, B.B. was found dead by staff at Youth Care, Inc.

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3. The statement of Dr. Todd Grey, Office of the Medical Examiner that the cause of death was small bowel infarction. The opinion of Dr. Grey that if medical intervention had been obtained, B.B.'s death would have been preventable.

DETECTIVE P. EVANS
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____
day of October, 2007.

MAGISTRATE

Authorized for presentment and filing:

LOHRA L. MILLER, District Attorney

Deputy District Attorney
October 11, 2007
lo/07019470