

Woman In Baby Case Charged - Former Bridgewater College Student Booked, Released

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HARRISONBURG - The former Bridgewater College student at the center of a case involving a missing newborn turned herself in to police Friday morning on one count of improperly disposing of a body.

Sheriff's deputies charged Sarah Elisabeth Wolf, of Baltimore, Md., with a misdemeanor, then released her pending trial.

Authorities allege that Wolf gave birth to a baby in a dorm bathroom at Bridgewater College and then threw it away.

The investigation began in late January, four days after police say the incident occurred.

Investigators say they worked the case for six months, leading up to Sheriff Don Farley's announcement on July 20 that Wolf would be charged.

The Investigation

The investigation included a two-day search of the Rockingham County Landfill as well as numerous interviews and searches, police have said.

The infant's body was never found and without an autopsy, the question of whether the baby was born alive was never resolved.

Legal experts have said police must show the baby was born alive in order to file a homicide charge. According to the evidence police do have, the misdemeanor is the appropriate charge, police say.

"Unless something new develops our investigation is closed," Farley said Friday. "We'll prosecute the case like any other."

Capt. J.B. Wittig, of the sheriff's office, said the case is set for a hearing Monday morning in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Wolf is not expected to be at the hearing. John Holloran, Wolf's attorney, said on Friday that he will appear on her behalf to set a date for further proceedings.

Holloran hasn't seen the prosecution's evidence yet and hasn't decided how the defense will proceed.

"I'll look forward to the opportunity to communicate her side of what occurred," he said. "The public has only heard one side."

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