



Office of the Dutchess County DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS MAN SENTENCED ON CRIMINALLY NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE IN DEATH OF 10-MONTH-OLD

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced today that Thomas Martinez, 41, was sentenced to 6 months incarceration and 5 years of probation after entering a guilty plea to Criminally Negligent Homicide, a Class E Felony, in May.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi stated, “This sentence reflects the devastating consequences of criminal negligence when dangerous narcotics are present around children. A 10-month-old child lost her life because the defendant failed to take the most basic precautions to protect her from exposure to fentanyl. Although this case remained unresolved for years, my Office and the New York State Police were committed to ensuring it moved forward so that accountability would not be denied simply because time had passed. No sentence can ever restore this child's life or erase the unimaginable loss suffered by her loved ones, but today's sentence ensures that justice was ultimately pursued.”

The incident charged in the complaint occurred on November 9, 2020, at 11 Creekview Court in the Village of Wappingers Falls. Mr. Martinez admitted failing to take reasonable precautions to prevent his daughter, aged 10 months, from fentanyl exposure. Further, Mr. Martinez admitted to creating and failing to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that death would occur and his conduct constituted a gross deviation from the standard of care that a reasonable person would exhibit in the same situation. As a direct result of this negligent conduct the infant victim died from acute fentanyl toxicity.

The case was investigated by the New York State Police and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Chelsy Jones and Unit Chief Pamela Bloomfield. The Honorable Jessica Segal is presiding over the case.

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