

Press Release

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FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT ON SIX MONTH OLD INFANT

County Attorney Pete Orput announced today that Mark James Nelson, age 32 of South St. Paul, was charged in Washington County District Court with the First Degree Assault on a six (6) month old infant from Forest Lake, the offense having occurred on August 19, 2011. At the initial appearance in front of Judge Susan Miles, bail was set at \$200,000 and the next court appearance set for September 8, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, Nelson, who was dating the mother of the infant, became angry with the mother. Nelson then picked up the infant and squeezed its torso until he heard some cracking noises. Medical personnel from Hennepin County Medical Center are cited as stating that 22 of the child's 24 ribs were broken, counting 37 separate fractures. In addition, they found bruising to the liver and lungs, together with trauma to the eyes, all consistent with child abuse, according to the complaint.

If convicted, Nelson faces a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison or a fine of up to \$30,000 or a combination of both.

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