

Mom facing murder charge hospitalized

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Japanese woman accused of murdering her infant son in Farmington Hills has been moved from the Oakland County Jail, where she was being held without bond, to the psychiatric unit at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Tsumi Koga, 34, was not present for an emergency bond hearing before Judge Jessica Cooper in Oakland County Circuit Court Monday, but her attorneys, Noli Fink and Carole Stanyar, were able to forge a compromise that will allow their client to be treated for severe depression.

"She is severely depressed, she's not sleeping and she can't sleep during the day," Stanyar said of the woman accused of drowning her 26-day-old son Nov. 2 in a pond behind an apartment complex in northwestern Farmington Hills. Stanyar and Fink called Dr. James Dillon, a University of Michigan psychiatrist and medical doctor who had been treating the defendant, since three days after the baby's death.

Dillon said that the University would likely admit Koga to its secure psychiatric wing where he and his wife, psychologist Veronica Ichikawa, a Japanese native fluent in the language, could treat the woman. "She has some suicidal thoughts," Dillon said. "Most experts believe that the longer the depression goes untreated, the more difficult it will be to bring the patient back."

Dillon said the woman has been especially isolated in jail because she speaks no English and where no one speaks Japanese. Although her depression appears to be temporary, she had been treated for depression before the incident and should could degenerate to where she would not be able to take care of herself.

Oakland County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Paul Walton agreed that Koga was not likely to be a threat to others, but he said, in the Oakland County Jail she would be safe from others and herself and would not be a risk to flee.

"I do not know what provisions the University of Michigan would have for security," he said. "It's in Washtenaw County, where

we would have no control."

Judge Cooper ruled that Koga, whose husband Akihiko and sister Midori Takayagi were at the hearing, could be taken to Beaumont where Dr. Dillon could arrange for her care on a temporary basis. In the meantime, Walton could investigate the U-of-M facility and, or the possibility of placing Koga at the state's forensic facility.

By allowing Koga to be treated at Beaumont, she could be evaluated and treated while the Oakland County Sheriff's Department could assure security. Koga is scheduled to be arraigned in circuit court before Judge Cooper at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 22.

Koga is accused of murdering her son Tsunayuki in the early morning hours of Nov. 2 while her sister, who had come from Japan to help her with the newborn, and husband slept.

She had been bound over to circuit court on charges of first degree murder for killing with premeditation and for felony murder. A felony murder charge elevates the crime to first degree murder. Koga faces life in prison without parole if convicted.

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Off-duty state trooper killed in car crash

A Farmington Hills crash Tuesday night claimed the life of an off-duty Michigan State Police Trooper.

Anthony Trent Crosby, 29, of Southfield and his wife Sonja, 31, were driving west on Nine Mile through the intersection at Middlebelt in a 1993 Chevy Cavalier when a 1989 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Robert Mc-

Elrath, 64, of South Lyon, turned left from the eastbound lane at 8:45 p.m. to go north on Middlebelt. McElrath had no passengers.

All three were taken to Botaford General Hospital. Crosby and his wife were taken by helicopter to the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. Sonja Crosby suffered a broken neck but

no paralysis. She is listed in fair condition and is expected to recover. Anthony Crosby was taken off life support Wednesday and died as a result of the injuries. McElrath suffered a broken left wrist and facial lacerations and is listed in good condition at Botaford Hospital.

McElrath and Sonja Crosby

were wearing seat belts at the time. It is unclear if Anthony Crosby was wearing one, Hills police said.

Trooper Crosby was assigned to the Detroit post.

Farmington Hills police are asking that anyone who witnessed the accident call 473-9683. Hills officers are continuing their investigation.

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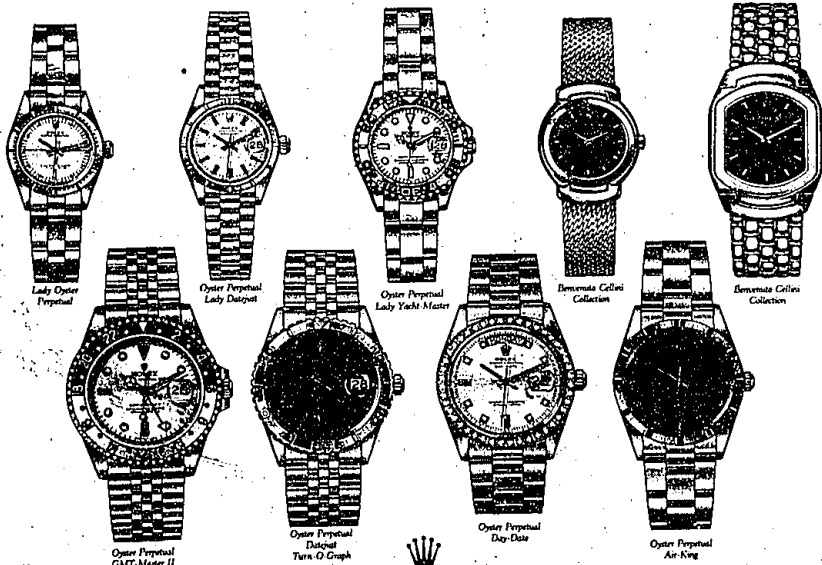
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